the
Central Voice

REAL GAY NEWS. WE GIVE IT TO YOU STRAIGHT.

How to avoid "foo-foo" gay waiters and other weird advice from homophobes

PG. 21

STAGING A WALKOUT AT 4-YRS OLD :

Inside the world of a lifelong political organizer

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THECENTRALVOICE.COM | MARCH & APRIL 2018 | FREE

Socialists in central PA?

Harrisburg Democratic Socialists want to raise your consciousness

By Louie Marven

Pre-meeting chatter focused on topics ranging from mutual aid to white supremacy in video games, from Industrial Workers of the World to the differences between anarchism and libertarian socialism.

When the meeting started, one participant volunteered to "take stack,' a strategy for holding democratic discussion whereby someone keeps track of the order of those who want to comment; it was way to clearly put into practice the democratic principles that have attracted so many new members to local DSA chapters across the US over the last couple of years. Twenty-four thousand people have joined DSA since President Donald Trump's election.

24,000
Number of people who have joined DSA since President Donald Trump's election

Much of the discussion at the Harrisburg DSA's reading group focused on understanding *The Communist Manifesto* in its historical context while simultaneously finding particular points of relevance for today's political landscape. Sometimes participants raised points of confusion or asked if anyone had more historical insight to help understand a particular point. Others responded with what they understood from the pamphlet and shared their knowledge of history.

Karl or Groucho?

One participant shared that at the beginning of the

Please see **SOCIALISTS**, page **19**

PARTY ANIMALS

By Frank Pizzoli

"Each month looks different, because the places we take over appeal to different members of our community," says Ralph Serpe, a regular at events hosted by the hugely successful Gorilla Gay Bar – York.

GGB York is a monthly "Pop-up" LGBTQ gathering in downtown York City. The scene first began in 2011 and ran for about one year. Last October the energetic venue was reprised. No one has looked back since.

"While we have a strong core group, we find that different people show up because they are curious about the venue we're taking over," Serpe says. About 100 people showed up for the event on Jan. 13 at Holy Hound in downtown York.

About 40% of followers are from Adams, Lancaster and the Harrisburg Area. Some are from Northern Baltimore County. Half are woman. Half are men. Many are people of color. All ages and sexual orientations.

Serpe explains that GGB York began in 2011 because "we wanted to bring LGBTQ people to York's downtown." New bars and restaurants were opening and "we wanted to experience those bars from a collective gay perspective." York's "First Fridays" was growing and the LGBTQ community was invisible. GGB York ran for about one year, drawing about 350 to sign up on the venue's Facebook page. At its peak, the event had about 100+ people 'take over," Serpe says.

GGB York was resurrected last October. "Within a few weeks we 'took over' our first bar," Serpe says. Each month attendance grows.

"We now have over 600 people following the Facebook page, 20+ people sharing and inviting their friends each month. We can easily expect 100-200 people attending each month," Serpe says. "York is very busy on First Fridays now, so we're taking over Second Saturdays at 9 p.m. sharp," he says. It's all in the entrance.

Pop Up

The idea behind bringing a "pop-up" LGBTQ

Please see **GUERILLA GAY BARS**, page **14**

GUERILLA GAY BARS ARE POPPING UP ALL OVER DOWNTOWN YORK

"...they [the wait staff] realize they are being inundated with a happy, crowd that will hang around until closing."

- Ralph Serpe, founder
Guerilla Gay Bar - York

Our pride
is showing
Check out the
midstate's only
LGBT website!
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INTERNATIONAL

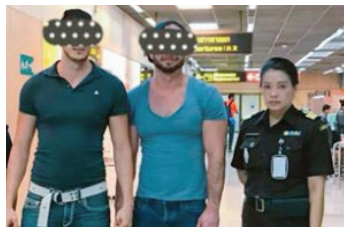
EGYPT

10 ARRESTED IN LGBT ASSAULT

Human Rights Watch's Neela Ghoshal reports that on Jan. 14 Egyptian police arrested 10 people in the latest assault on lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) rights in the country under the rule of President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi. But in the face of relentless persecution of sexual and gender minorities in Egypt, world leaders remain largely silent – or worse, praise al-Sisi as a "moderate" leader. Police accused the 10 arrested of "debauchery," the Egyptian authorities' catchall term for anyone suspected of homosexual conduct or of simply being gay or transgender. According to media, police claimed they received reports of, "weird" men visiting an apartment – apparently reason enough to conduct a raid. The latest arrests bring to more than 85 the number reported to have been caught up in a massive crackdown on LGBT people since several young people waved a rainbow flag at a Cairo concert in September. Many of those targeted are gay men and transgender women, or men perceived to be effeminate. More than 40 have received prison sentences, with some subjected to forced anal exams, a form of torture.

THAILAND

NAKED SELFIES GET JAILED



Two American men arrested in Thailand for posting naked photos to Instagram have been released from jail. Joseph Dasilva, 38, and Travis Dasilva, 36, were arrested at Bangkok's Don Mueang International Airport after images posted to their Travelling Butts Instagram account showed them dropping their trousers at various religious sites around Thailand. The photos, one of which showed the men with their trousers down at Wat Arun temple, went viral and quickly caught the attention of the Thai authorities who arrested the married couple as they tried to depart Thailand. It had been reported the couple faced up to seven years in jail for breaching Thailand's strict Computer Crimes Act. "They wanted me to thank everyone for their thoughts prayers and concerns," said Robert Rodriguez, a friend of the couple.

EUROPEAN UNION

NO 'GAY' TESTS

Asylum seekers must not be subjected to psychological tests to determine whether they are homosexual, the European Union's top court has ruled. Tests to determine sexual orientation are controversial, but are sometimes used when assessing asylum claims. The European Court of Justice (ECJ) ruling is binding in all 28 EU states. The ECJ case relates to a Nigerian man who submitted an asylum application in Hungary in April 2015. He feared persecution in Nigeria for being gay. Hundreds of homosexuals fearing persecution in Africa, the Middle East and Chechnya have sought asylum in the EU, the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights reports. The Nigerian's claim was rejected after a psychologist's report failed to confirm his homosexuality. A court in Szeged, Hungary, must now reconsider his case in light of the ECJ ruling.

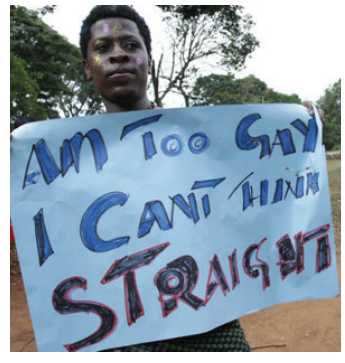
PARAGUAY

FEARS RISE OVER DISCRIMINATION

Mariana Sepulveda has been stabbed on the street, detained by police and expelled from her high school — all for being transgender in Paraguay, one of the most sexually conservative countries in Latin America. "I've felt hate for not being heterosexual," said Sepulveda, 32, who now works for an advocacy group. "Raising a family, having a partner, adopting children seems out of reach because there are no legal conditions for us in Paraguay." A lack of legal protections and prevalent macho attitudes have long stoked discrimination against lesbians, gays, bisexuals and transgender people in the poor, mostly Roman Catholic country. Advocacy groups fear the stigma and attacks on the LGBQT community could get worse now that the education minister has banned classes about sexual diversity in schools and even volunteered to help burn all books related to the subject. The ban was implemented in October after the United Nations Children's Fund issued a guidebook for teachers on avoiding discrimination between girls and boys and achieving gender equality.

UGANDA

POLICE RAID FILM FESTIVAL



Uganda's only gay and lesbian film festival was forced to shut down after police stormed the venue and film-goers fled, fearing arrest, its organizers said. The second day of the festival, three policemen, including one armed with an AK-47 rifle, burst into the festival venue in the capital Kampala. "In Uganda there's this narrative that there are no gay people, that it's a Western import. This is why we need this kind of festival," he told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. Homosexuality is illegal in the socially conservative East African country and violence against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people is common.

INDONESIA

MOST FEEL 'THREATENED' BY GAYS

Nearly 90 percent of Indonesians who understand the term LGBT feel "threatened" by the community and believe their religion forbids same-sex relations, a survey shows. Homosexuality is not regulated by law in Indonesia, except in Aceh province where Islamic law bans same-sex relations. But the world's largest Muslim-majority nation has seen a rise in hostility toward the LGBT community, with activists saying their rights are not being adequately protected by the state. "The survey finds that, generally, the Indonesian public views the LGBT (community) negatively," the Saiful Mujani Research Centre said on its website. "But the public is also of the view that the LGBT community has the right to live in Indonesia and that the government should protect them like other citizens." Indonesian police have over the last few years stepped up raids targeting "spas" or what they call "gay sex parties" and charged many of those involved with violating strict pornography laws. This has raised alarm bells among rights activists who say the law is being used to unfairly target LGBT individuals. More than 300 people were arrested in 2017 for alleged LGBT-behavior, according to Human Rights Watch.

GAY BAR WORKERS JAILED

An Indonesian court has sentenced 10 men arrested in a raid at a gay club and sauna to between two and three years in prison, according to a relative. They were among more than 140 men detained after the raid on what police said was a sex party at the Atlantis spa in Jakarta, the Indonesian capital Most were released because homosexuality is not illegal in Indonesia, but 10 men were charged under anti-pornography laws. LGBT Indonesians have endured a wave of hostility in the past two years that has been stoked by inflammatory public statements from conservative officials and religious groups.

ROMANIA

BACKLASH AGAINST RIGHTS

Romania decriminalized homosexuality in 2001. Today it is witnessing a backlash against LGBT rights, supported by US Christian conservatives. "What you have to understand," says a man in his late 30s, "is the influence of the Orthodox Church. It's…mind control." The anti-LGBT organization 'Coalition for Family' – a self-described «civic initiative…open to those who share the values of the family» – is the foundation of Romania's anti-gay establishment. The Coalition is "awful," says one woman. "They come up with these crazy excuses against gay marriage – saying if we allow this, then people will be able to marry their dogs." Same-sex marriage is not currently legal in Romania. Action is expected next year on the issue.

COSTA RICA

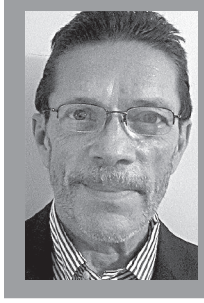
RECOGNIZE GAY MARRIAGE

The Inter-American Court of Human Rights ruled that Costa Rica must recognize marriage equality, and full rights for same-sex couples, in a decision that's binding on 20 Latin American and Caribbean countries. In its opinion, the court noted that neither the article of the American Convention on Human Rights protecting private and family life from arbitrary interference nor the article concerning the right to marry defines "family" or establishes limits to the meaning of family, much less limits protections to a single type of family. The court also notes that in reality, family takes diverse forms, not all of which depend on marital ties.

Please see **POLITICAL UPDATES**, page **6**

PA up the Amazon on new headquarters

Publisher's Voice



By Frank Pizzoli

Why would Amazon select a northeast state like Pennsylvania surrounded by states with basic LGBT civil rights laws already in place?

No surprise on this one.

Amazon's headquarters selection has spawned a national campaign called No Gay? No Way!

The aim of the campaign is to get Amazon to reject any bid from a city competing for the company's second headquarters if it is located in a state that lacks statewide LGBT-inclusive nondiscrimination protections.

The No Gay? No Way! campaign asks Amazon not to build its second headquarters in 11 of the 20 finalist cities or regions that are in states that don't have anti-discrimination laws protecting lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people.

Pennsylvania is on the list, casting a shadow on the state's two finalists: Pittsburgh and Philadelphia. Harrisburg also applied, one of 238 applicants.

Why a shadow?

Pennsylvania has no basic LGBT civil rights protections.

Why would Amazon select a Northeast state like Pennsylvania surrounded by states with basic LGBT civil rights laws already in place? They wouldn't.

As far back as 2006, *The Central Voice* published a story "Economic Development's Secret Weapon - Gay People" by Ted Martin. His story focused on economist Richard Florida's new book at the time *The Rise of the Creative Class.*

"The key to understanding America's technological and economic vibrancy lies in our openness to new people and ideas," Florida told *USA Today* on his book tour. "Tolerance of immigrants, gays and other minorities is much more important to sustained economic growth and high-paying jobs than the tax cut President Bush has in mind." Or the tax cut President Trump just issued?

"When you look at the creative class, as Florida calls it, one of the things you see in these very high-skilled, high-paying job clusters is tolerance," Jon Talton said in an interview with *LGBTQNation*. He's an economics columnist at the *Seattle Times*, in Amazon's hometown.

"Places with the least tolerance tend not to get these assets," Talton said.

No asset like Amazon coming to Pennsylvania.

Our General assembly sees change as the enemy. With no luck, basic LGBT civil rights legislation has been introduced every year for about 15 years. But who's counting? Well, Amazon and many big companies. They simply want the pick of the best when it comes to employees. And that includes some LGBT folks who are the best at what Amazon needs (not because they're queer).

If Amazon examined Pennsylvania's recent headlines around LGBT issues, what would they find?

The last Queer Blast in Pennsylvania was Dec. 6 of last year when House State Government Committee Chairman Daryl Metcalfe went on a homophobic rant against minority Chairman Matt Bradford, who briefly touched Metcalfe's arm during a committee meeting, according to a news release from Equality PA and SEIU, a union.

Among other things, Metcalfe said, "Representative Bradford, I'm a heterosexual. I have a wife, I love my wife. I don't like men, as you might. But stop touching me all the time." Later, he said, "It's like, keep your hands to yourself. Like, if you want to touch somebody, you have people on your side of the aisle that might like it. I don't."

Maybe a fellow Republican ought to pull him aside – without touching him – to explain some basic Republican values on economics. Explain what's at stake in terms of jobs and economic development. All the values Republicans hold dear.

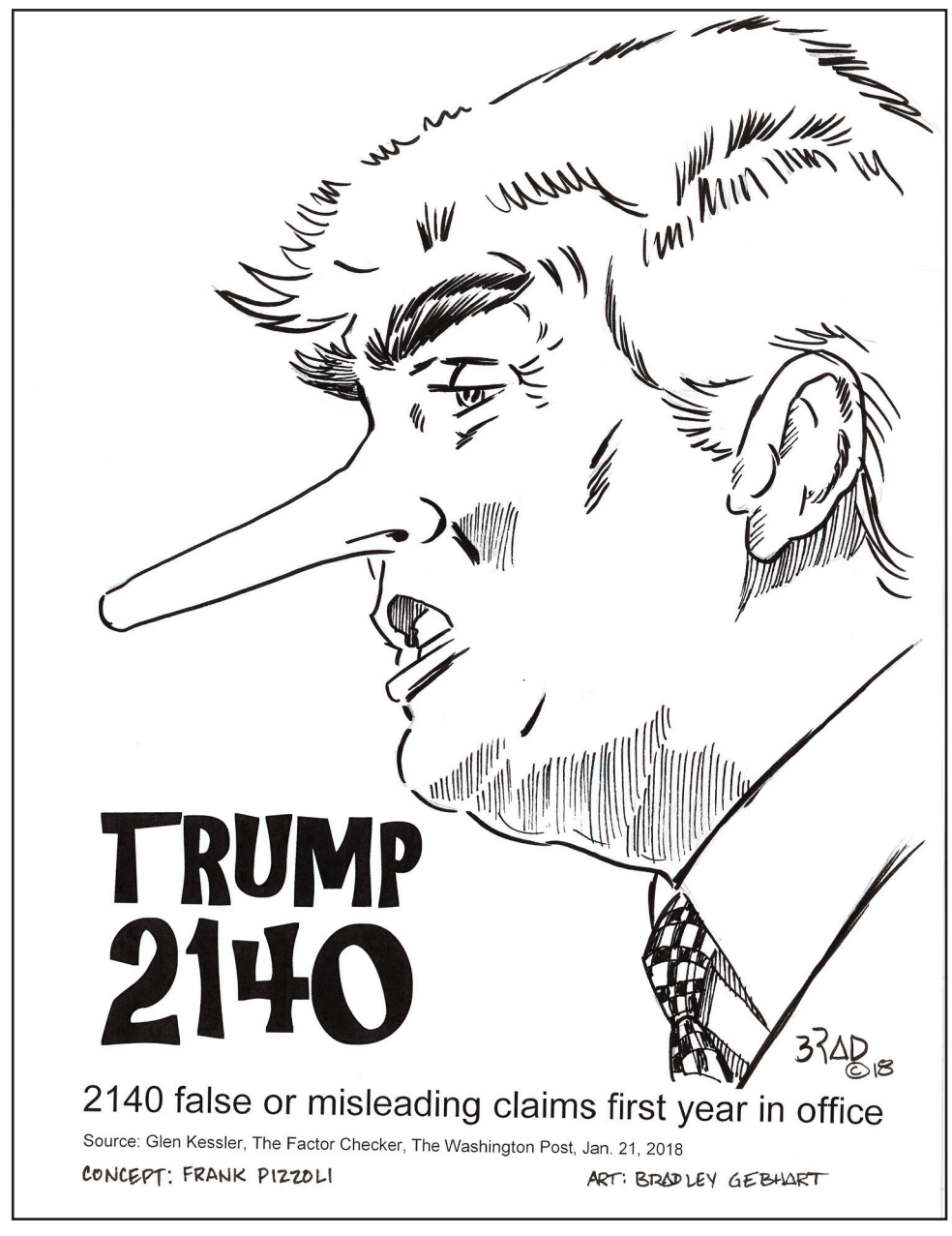
Not wasting any time running backwards, Pennsylvania recently came up bas-akwards again on the tolerance thing.

In mid-January, Rep. Metcalfe along with 25 other State Representatives sent a letter to Governor Wolf urging him to rescind the policy update that provides for Pennsylvania birth certificates to include gender neutral language for noted parents.

In 2017, the Pennsylvania Department of Health updated the birth certificate forms to include spaces for one or two "Parents", rather than the gendered language of "Mother" and "Father". The change, started under Gov. Tom Corbett, is gender inclusive as it makes these forms accessible to couples of the same gender and those parents who do not identify along a gender binary. In the past, for example, a lesbian couple would have to put (as able) one parent name in the "Father" designation.

Metcalfe and 25 other elected officials disagreed with the change. That doesn't sound tolerant of new ideas.

If Pennsylvania doesn't soon change – on LGBT issues and so many other 21st Century needs - under the leadership of the General Assembly, who's going to turn out the lights when the last shift ends? The dinosaurs refusing to leave?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Source: Glen Kessler, The Factor Checker, The Washington Post, Jan. 21, 2018
CONCEPT: FRANK PIZZOLI
ART: BRADLEY GEBHART

the Central Voice

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OWNED BY
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PROUD MEMBER OF:

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Hooray, HIV stigma is over according to producer

By Mark King

Oh, to be a Hollywood producer. High-powered meetings and mimosas. Swimming pools. Movie stars. And as far as the eye can see, not a single person living with HIV experiencing stigma.

That's the candy-colored scenario presented by Brad Simpson, one of the executive producers of the FX series *American Crime Story: The Assassination of Gianni Versace*, as part of a radio interview on NPR's "Here and Now" on Wednesday, January 31st.

Simpson and co-producer Nina Jacobson were being asked about the objections of the Versace family to their fictionalized account of the last days of Gianni Versace, including the suggestion that Versace was HIV positive. Brad Simpson defended the portrayal by referencing their source material, Maureen Orth's book *Vulgar Favors:*

"Well, Maureen certainly says in her book, she states a fact, that Gianni Versace was HIV positive at the time of his death. She talked to people who knew him, she also talked to a detective who saw the autopsy report. This was a time in which HIV was still a death sentence, it was killing thousands and thousands of gay men and we personally don't think there's any stigma anymore to having HIV. I can understand why it would be sensitive to the family…"

"...we personally don't think there's any stigma anymore to having HIV."

- Brad Simpson, producer of *American Crime Story: The Assassination of Gianni Versace*

Ouch. Brad actually defends his choice to out the HIV status of one person by saying a breathtakingly bone-headed thing about all people living with HIV. It is hardly enough to call this statement stupid and uninformed and inaccurate. It denies the real experience of the vast majority of people with HIV.

What Brad might not see from his privileged viewpoint is that HIV stigma is the primary driver of HIV risk and AIDS deaths today. Stigma is why people don't get tested in the first place, it is why people are unfairly criminalized, it is why they don't come back to the doctor for treatment after getting HIV positive test results, it is why women are routinely beaten and traumatized, it is why people are afraid to ask their doctor for PrEP, it is why people like me don't read online comments if we don't want to see ourselves labeled as unclean whores.

Brad might believe things are peachy for white men who have HIV and plenty of money, and he would still be wrong. Brad presumably doesn't experience rejection, from friends to lovers to tricks, because of his HIV status. Brad hasn't found himself, I'm guessing here, struggling to say the words "I'm HIV positive" to a family member or co-worker or physician.

Brad should take a few minutes away from his publicity tour to read articles about HIV stigma like this one and that one and this other one. His very cluelessness perpetuates the shame people can feel for having HIV.

I'm equally frustrated with NPR co-hosts Jeremy Hobson and Robin Young, who let Brad's comment hang there without challenge. They were too busy queuing up the next clip from the series. And why the hell didn't Brad's co-producer Nina Jacobson clap back at his comment? He said, "We personally don't think there is any HIV stigma anymore…" Nina, are you good with that?

I suppose she is, because Nina Jacobson is living in the same time warp as Brad. Later in the same interview, talking about her creative process, Nina says this:

"There is some degree of imagination that must go into creating a story like this. And certainly for us, the stigma surrounding HIV and AIDS, the shame that was being experienced by so many gay people who were still living in the closet…"

Nina, how about you imagine giving a radio interview in which you don't refer to HIV stigma in the past tense?

Okay, Nina and Brad, now that I have your attention, I know you're super busy and I don't mean to bother you, but I have this screenplay I wrote and you are exactly the right home for it. This won't take but a minute. It's about a guy, kinda a lot like me, and he tests HIV positive but that's no problem because everyone loves people with HIV and nobody ever gets rejected and there's this opening scene where all the people with HIV are on the Hollywood Freeway and they stop traffic and get out of their cars to sing and dance about how wonderful our lives are. Chris Hemsworth will be perfect to play me, because really, why the f**k not.

Originally appeared on Mark King's My Fabulous Disease at http://markski-ng.com/my-fabulous-disease/hooray-hiv-stigma-says-producer-versace-series.

Gay rights vs. religious freedom

University of Iowa religious business group rejects homosexuality, sues university for discrimination

by Julie Moreau

LOCAL RESPONSE: "This situation certainly brings to light a manufactured conflict between religious communities and the LGBT community," says Ben Allatt, Harrisburg City Council member.

The situation involves a legal battle brewing at the University of Iowa pitting gay rights against religious freedom.

Business Leaders in Christ (BLinC) is suing the public university for religious discrimination after it revoked the group's campus registration in November for denying a leadership position to a gay student. The group, which was founded three years ago at the school's Tippie College of Business, rejects the university's claim.

Allatt, who himself is a practicing Christian and son of an ordained minister told *The Central Voice*," Many within the religious community fail to see that simply being gay does not disqualify someone from being religious. The group says its membership is open to everyone but says its leaders must affirm a statement of faith that rejects homosexuality.

"It is a shame that a student who identifies as gay and Christian would be barred from participating in a group that identifies as Christian, Allatt says, adding "this is the height of hypocrisy."

The lawsuit claims "BLinC declined the student's request because he expressly stated that he rejected BLinC's religious beliefs and would not follow them. Asking the government to subsidize your religious gathering is a novel and aggressive reframing of what religious liberty has been understood to be in the past."

"This is 2017, not 1984," Jacob Estell, the student president of BLinC, said in a statement. "Our beliefs weren't made by us, and they can't be changed by us either — certainly not just to satisfy Orwellian government rules."

Allatt hopes there several things considered in this particular case.

"One this group on campus is not a church, and without knowing the specific details regarding the group's make-up, one can assume that the group is nondenominational in an attempt to appeal to a wide group of Christians to participate, Allatt says.

Second, "churches have the ability through religious exemptions to declare who they are to the world, and if they determine they are not inclusive to the LGBT community, that is their legal right." But he also points out that "This group is not a church, it is a group operating within a university and is subject to the policies set forth by the university."

The Becket Fund for Religious Liberty is representing BLinC in court. The Becket Fund has developed a track record of successfully litigating religious liberty cases, including the landmark 2014 case Burwell v. Hobby Lobby Stores. In a split decision, the Supreme Court sided with Hobby Lobby to find that the government could not compel the company to provide contraception for female employees when to do so would violate the religious beliefs of the owners.

At it again...

Rep. Daryl Metcalfe (R-12) along with 25 other State Representatives sent a letter to Governor Wolf urging him to rescind the policy update that provides for Pennsylvania birth certificates to include gender neutral language for noted parents.

In 2017, the Pennsylvania Department of Health updated the birth certificate forms to include spaces for one or two "Parents" rather than the gendered language of "Mother" and "Father."

This change is gender inclusive as it makes these forms accessible to couples of the same gender and those parents who do not identify along the gender binary. In the past, a lesbian couple would have to put (as able) one parent name in the "Father" designation.

Political Updates From page 3

INTERNATIONAL

IRELAND

THE HETEROSEXUAL AGENDA?

Two Irish men have married in Dublin to avoid paying €50,000 in inheritance tax on a house. Best friends Matt Murphy and Michael O'Sullivan are both heterosexual, but decided to get married when they discovered how much tax would have to be paid on the house Murphy, 83, intended to leave in his will to O'Sullivan, 58, who is his care giver. Neither man is gay. "I stayed over with him for a while and eventually Matt said 'Why don't you come and stay here?' I would go over and stay with him the odd time but never full time." Murphy could not afford to pay O'Sullivan as a caregiver. "Eventually Matt said the only way he could pay me was to leave me the house. He said he would give me the house so I have somewhere to live when he goes." "Then one night he turned around and said it to me and I said I would marry him." O'Sullivan was previously married to a woman. It is Murphy's first marriage.

CHECHEN REPUBLIC

OUT MAN FORCED TO APOLOGIZE

The first Chechen man to come out as gay has said that he was forced to issue an apology to the leader and people of Chechnya last month after receiving threats to his family, according to The Moscow Times. Movsar Eskarkhanov apologized on Chechen state television for telling Time magazine that he was persecuted for being gay in the republic. "They made it clear that if I continue to talk, there would be problems," Eskarkhanov was cited as saying in an interview with the Kavkazsky Uzel news website. In his Nov. 13 apology, Eskarkhanov said that his coming-out was made under the influence of epilepsy medication. His account followed a Russian investigative newspaper report earlier this year of a large-scale crackdown on gay men in Chechnya.

NATIONAL

KENTUCKY

REP DEAD AFTER ALLEGATIONS

Representative Dan Johnson, a first-term Republican, accused of molesting a 17-year-old teenage girl, killed himself two days after the allegations were made public, the authorities said. Johnson took his life on a bridge in Mount Washington, Ky., according to Sheriff Donnie Tinnell of Bullitt County. Dave Billings, said that Mr. Johnson "died of a single gunshot wound" and that it was "a probable suicide." The Kentucky Center for Investigative Reporting published an extensive investigation alleging Johnson had sexually assaulted the parishioner at the Heart of Fire Church, an evangelical church where he was bishop.

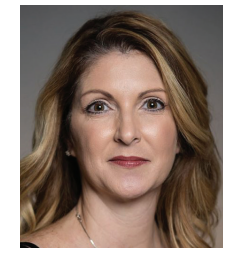
IDAHO

SUICIDE FOLLOWS ALLEGATIONS

Idaho Republican lawmaker, Brandon Hixon, died from a self-inflicting gunshot wound to the head. The Canyon County Coroner's office ruled his death a suicide but police are still investigating. Hixon was under investigation for reportedly molesting two girls, including a young female relative of his who was abused for more than 10 years. The other victim was not related to him. Hixon took his life before facing justice through the legal system. We're told both girls were minors. His ex-wife, Danielle Eirvin Hixon, said that the suicide has robbed her family of facing their accuser in court. "Brandon made people believe that he was a stand-up, morally correct person," said Hixon, who was married to the former lawmaker for 10 years until their divorce in 2016. "But behind the house walls, he would cheat on me and molested children." After Hixon resigned, he was also arrested with two misdemeanors for driving under the influence and resisting arrest, according to Ada County Sheriff's Office spokesman Patrick Orr.

NEW YORK

CHAMBER ADDRESSES LOVE/HATE



Barbara Poma, owner of The Pulse Nightclub and onePULSE Foundation Founder, recently addressed The Manhattan Chamber of Commerce to tell her story and walk about her journey. Ramos engages the business community to promote acceptance and understanding for all members of the LGBTQ community. Pulse Nightclub is embraced by the global LGBTQ community for the club's culture of love and providing a venue where LGBTQ people and their friends and families could be themselves in a safe space. In the course of operating Pulse Nightclub and the aftermath of the horrific attack on the club that took 49 lives, Poma has become a respected and vocal human and civil rights advocate. Poma discussed how one of the nation's worst mass shooting in modern American history has shifted her focus on to preserving the memory of those who lost their lives in the tragedy

PA governor takes additional steps to ensure equal access

Governor Tom Wolf has taken additional steps to guarantee equal access to restroom facilities for individuals across the Commonwealth, according to an email sent by Office of Intergovernmental Affairs Secretary Eric Gutshall.

The Wolf Administration continues to ensure that Commonwealth buildings include universal single occupancy restroom facilities that are safe, accessible, and convenient to all citizens.

Additionally, to the extent feasible, all gender-specific single occupancy restrooms in existing Commonwealth buildings shall be converted to universal restrooms. Newly-constructed and renovated single occupancy universal restrooms should:

Utilize appropriate signage as designated by the Pennsylvania Department of General Services that indicates a universal single occupancy restroom;

Comply with all ADA requirements, including ADA lever/closer hardware with secure locks that include occupancy indicators;

Comply with all International Building Code accessibility requirements for single-occupant toilet rooms; and

Comply with the Pennsylvania Uniform Construction Code.

This action builds on the Governor's two anti-discrimination executive orders to expand protections against discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender expression, or identity for Commonwealth employees and employees of businesses who are contracted by the Commonwealth.

Alabama Senate passes bill to eliminate marriage licenses

By Mike Cason
mcason@al.com

A bill to eliminate marriage licenses in Alabama and set up a process under which probate judges accept affidavits from couples as official records of marriage has passed the Alabama Senate.

The cost would be the same that it now costs to buy a marriage license.

The requirement of a ceremony to solemnize the marriage would be eliminated.

The sponsor, Sen. Greg Albritton, R-Range, said that would take the state out of any role in marriage ceremonies, which he said would properly separate church and state.

Albritton has proposed similar bills the last couple of years. They first surfaced after the U.S. Supreme Court legalized gay marriage in 2015.

Under current law, Alabama probate judges are not required to issue marriage licenses and some, at least initially, declined to issue licenses to same-sex couples after the Supreme Court ruling.

Albritton's bill would take away any discretion by probate judges. The only requirement to make a marriage official would be to submit the documents to the probate judge.

The documents include an affidavit saying that the spouses are at least 18, or at least 16 and have parental consent, are not currently married and are not related by blood or adoption.

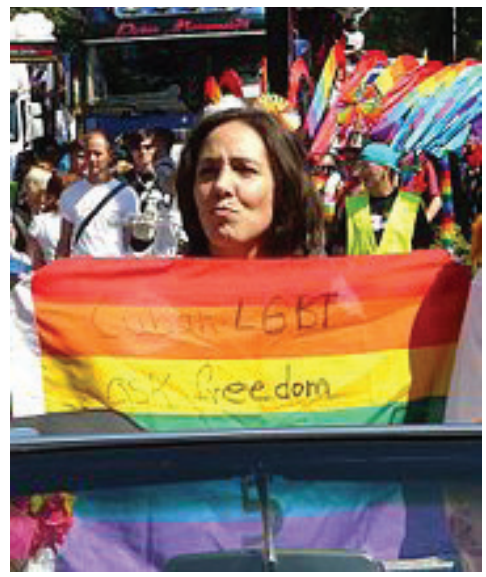
The bill says the change would not affect any other aspects of marriage in Alabama, including divorce, child support and child custody.

The bill moves to the House of Representatives.

LOCAL GAY CUBANS REFLECT

Who will be elected Cuba's next president?

Whoever is selected to be Cuba's next president, one important question is the fate of gay people on the island.



Could Mariela Castro, renowned LGBT activist and director of the National Center for Sex Education, follow in the footsteps of her father, Raul Castro?

Cuban President Raul Castro is due to step down in April after his successor is chosen by an elected governing council, known as the Council of State, which is formed by the National Assembly.

One thing is certain: Castro's son, Alejandro, won't be following in his father's footsteps. Having failed to secure a nomination to the 600-seat National Assembly, his chances of ascending to the highest office on the Caribbean island have been snuffed out.

In 2013, *The Central Voice* spoke to Dr. José Venereo, Cuban and a successful local veterinarian, who as a child was on the island on New Year's Eve 1959, when Fidel Castro's soldiers finally defeated corrupt Cuban President Fulgencio Batista, the seeds of the Cuban revolution were planted. The seeds that would eventually blossom into his adult beliefs.

As a Cuban, José faced a family history recounted only in whispers. As a gay man, he later found a home in south central Pennsylvania.

"I was very young when much of this family history took place. They did not talk in great detail. This was a traumatic time for my family. Their houses and land were confiscated under Castro's policy of redistributing wealth," José told Central Voice five years ago.

Could Castro's daughter Mariela Castro make a difference for LGBT Cubans?

Some say the renowned LGBT activist and Director of Cuba's National Center for Sex Education does stand a chance, although she has said she has no intention of running for office.

Nominated as a parliamentary deputy, Mariela told telSUR said: "Who do I want for the future of the country? I have no idea. In all of those I look at, I see virtues and defects – including in my dad."

The next president of Cuba, Mariela insists, should be decided by the people. "I do not have a favorite, but there are several people with qualities. I'm still not going to make a statement; I'm watching."

In response to the 2014 detente with the United States during the presidency of Barack Obama, Mariela said: "The people of Cuba don't want to return to capitalism," adding that "we've been at this 56 years and ... we love saying that we are a country in revolution, trying to create socialism."

Also in 2013, *The Central Voice* talked with local York artist Joaquin Calles Gucman, 26, who was born in Cuba in 1988 and migrated to the US 2007.

"I had a very hard time living there. And finally my family said you deserve better," Calles Gucman said. He explained that he came out at the age of 16 but was sent to a psychologist so that the gay part could be "fixed." Although he was a straight A student, "I was still viewed as flawed" and "no matter what I did in my life that black mark would be against me," he said.

Calles Gucman also explained political realities that all Cuban citizens face.

"The Cuban government decides everything for individuals," he explained. He studied psychology to the Masters degree level. "But none of that mattered. There were no openings for 'white psychologists' as the government explained. Eventually he developed his interest and talents in the arts, doing installation work that combines video, sound, and dance.

"You would find yourself living around gayness and your opposition to communism. You hide everything in your life in one way or another you make compartments for your personalized your business life and whatever is important to you," Calles Gucman explained. And although there is no official Cuban policy working against LGBT civil rights that does not mean, he explains, that all Cubans are on the same page. "It's a cultural thing. There are various levels of acceptance in different places on the," he says.

Cuba's ruling Communist Party has yet to name any formal candidate, but current First Vice-President Miguel Diaz-Canel Bermudez, having delivered major party speeches and other telltale signs of succession, may yet step into the fray.

Other possibilities include Jose Ramon Machado Ventura, the patry's second secretary, who fought with guerrillas in the Sierra Maestro during the Cuban Revolution; and Ramiro Valdes, another former guerrilla who currently serves as vice-president of the State Council and Council of Ministers.

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Insurer to pay $17 million in HIV privacy settlement

Mail revealing confidential HIV-related information was sent to 11,875 Aetna customers

"This settlement sends a message that the law requires HIV-related information to be maintained in a private and protected manner. People living with HIV and those on PReP should feel confident that they can healthcare and privacy," says Attorney Ronda B. Goldfein, executive director, AIDS Law Project of Pennsylvania.

Goldfein is referring to a recent $17 million settlement in a federal class action lawsuit against Aetna, Inc., the third largest health insurance company in the United States, after a faulty mailing breached the HIV privacy of thousands of Aetna's customers.

The announcement by plaintiffs' attorneys comes six months after Aetna, as part of a settlement of an earlier set of lawsuits, mailed a notice in July 2017 in envelopes with large transparent windows that accidentally revealed that the recipients were prescribed HIV medications. It is believed to be the world's largest data breach involving HIV privacy, and many recipients have reported suffering significant harm as a result of the mailing.

The papers filed in support of the settlement allege that Aetna improperly transmitted to its legal counsel and a mail vendor the names of 13,487 customers who had been prescribed HIV medications and that large transparent window envelopes revealing confidential HIV-related information were sent to 11,875 of them.

Among those sent the mailing was "Andrew Beckett," a Pennsylvania resident who became the lead plaintiff in the nationwide class action lawsuit filed in August 2017 in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania by the AIDS Law Project of Pennsylvania, the Legal Action Center, and Berger & Montague, P.C. The plaintiffs include people taking medication to treat HIV as well as those who, like Beckett, take PrEP, a pre-exposure prophylactic that prevents HIV.

The case arose in response to calls of alarm from people throughout the country who received the mailing or had heard about it. The lead plaintiff's pseudonym is that of the fictional lawyer with HIV portrayed by Tom Hanks in his Academy Award-winning role in the 1993 movie Philadelphia.

Under the terms of the proposed settlement, which is now subject to the Court's approval, Aetna has agreed to pay $17,161,200 to resolve the claims. All Settlement Class Members will

automatically receive a Base Payment of either $75 to those whose protected health information was allegedly improperly disclosed by Aetna to its legal counsel and mail vendor, or at least $500 (inclusive of the $75 payment above) to those whose privacy was breached by the large-windowed envelope, whichever is applicable.

In addition, Settlement Class Members whose privacy was breached by the large-windowed envelope have the opportunity to seek additional monetary relief through the filing of a claim form documenting financial or non-financial harm.

The settlement also includes the implementation by Aetna of a new "best practices" policy to prevent similar incidents from occurring in the future, and provides for attorneys' fees and expenses.

Beckett, the lead plaintiff, expressed satisfaction with the settlement. "HIV still has a negative stigma associated with it, and I am pleased that this encouraging agreement with Aetna shows that HIV-related information warrants special care," he said.

Goldfein said that because stigma associated with HIV is still pervasive, some people who received the mailing were forced from their homes or suffered irreparable damages to relationships with friends, relatives, and neighbors.

"The fear of losing control of HIV-related information and the resulting risk of discrimination are barriers to health care," Goldfein said. "This settlement reinforces the importance of keeping such information private, and we hope it reassures people living with HIV, or those on PrEP, that they do not have to choose between privacy and health care."

Founded in 1988, the AIDS Law Project of Pennsylvania (www.aidslawpa.org) is the nation's only independent nonprofit, public-interest law firm providing free legal services exclusively to people living with HIV and AIDS.

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Black gay man learns to "Love myself and love my skin"

By Micah Peterson

Hi, my name is Micah Peterson and I'm from Phoenix, Arizona. So, when I was 21, I was in college at Oberlin up in Ohio, which is the middle of nowhere. I had an opportunity to study abroad in Tokyo, Japan. It was just a really – I was really excited to go because it was going to be a really great chance for me to break out of my boundaries and see a whole new world.

At that point, I was already kind of like, kinda crazy as it was. I was kinda a wild, not really a wild kid but wild enough. I had these green contacts in and I was just trying to be cute and stuff, and I figured I can go to Japan and make them love me, too. I figured, why not? Let's try it out.

I get to Japan and I am so, I had such a culture shock that I – my eyes were so awakened in a way that I could not even imagine happening. I joined the school groups, I joined the track team and, you know, people assumed that I was going to be fast. I was like, okay, that's fine, people assumed because I'm black I'm going to be a fast runner.

I recall people coming up to me and asking me, "Hey, do you prefer Kanye West or do you prefer 50 Cent?"

I'm someone who doesn't really listen to hip-hop music at all, so I was just like, "Well, whoever you like!" I just remember having all these interactions where I kept having my blackness challenged and questioned. One of the things that I decided I would dive into was the gay scene because why not? Tokyo is also really fascinating because it has one of the highest concentration of gay bars in the world.

I found that guys were interested, but there were always these weird, little things. Like they thought it was because I was sexually virile or that I had a really big, Black phallus, or that I was going to be a top. It was either that or they didn't want me at all because they had these assumptions that, based on media consumption, that I was a thief or a thug or that I was dirty and they wanted nothing to do with me. If I wasn't white, then it wasn't right.

I remember there was this one time I was on the train and there was this guy that I made eye contact with. I just assumed – he was kinda cute. He was in his, like, probably his mid-twenties. Naturally, you assume, you make eye contact with someone and you make eye contact again, you're like, oh, maybe there's something, you know, they're interested in you. So I made eye contact again and we kept making eye contact during the car ride. Then when we got to the station, he got out of the car and moved to another car because he did not want to be anywhere near me.

I had some Black friends who were studying abroad and I also had some Japanese friends who had also previously studied abroad who were also living in Japan. Through them, they helped me really come into myself and help me really kind of understand that this is a different culture – and (a) that's okay, I still, to this day, still love Japan and everything it represents – but also realizing that I come from somewhere different and it's okay note these differences and still be okay with that.

When I got back to the States, I think one of the first things that I noticed that I hadn't noticed before which is how many of us there are, how many Black – I didn't notice Black people like I did over the summer when I got back. I didn't notice Black LGBT people like I noticed before, like I noticed when I got back. It was almost as though I had been sleeping and I had just woken up from years in a coma or something and all of a sudden we have flying cars.

"...this is who you are and all your cultural experiences, your life experiences, they make you you and no one's going to take that away from you. "

One of the first things I did was I took out those green contacts. I love my brown eyes. I wanted people to see my beautiful brown eyes. I started to hang out more with my Black friends. I had them before at Oberlin but there was something about the connection, being able to tell them things and have them know that they get it was just so amazing. I started to hang out with my Black gay friends more, and to be able to have those bonds and seek out other Black gay men as romantic partners, which was something that was new to me and was such a craving that I didn't know that I was missing. I just learned to really love myself and love my skin.

The story for me, the issue I was encountering was that I was running into an issue because people didn't want me to be who I am. I think, generally speaking, for anyone else who is going through a similar experience, just know that you should love yourself. At the end of the day, you're going to come across forces who aren't going to want you to be who you are. You just have to accept the fact that this is who you are and all your cultural experiences, your life experiences, they make you you and no one's going to take that away from you. So be yourself, love yourself and challenge other people.

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Beefcake pro-wrestler Mike Parrow: "I'm gay"

By Graham Gremore, QUEERTY

Say hello to Mike Parrow.

The 34-year-old pro wrestler from Orlando just made a big reveal: He's gay! All 6'4 and 300-pounds of him.

"I've always known I'm gay," Parrow tells *Gay Star News* in an exclusive new interview. "That was never a question in my mind."

He continues:

"Growing up, I went to Catholic school my whole life. My mom's a Sunday school teacher. I came from a small town in upstate New York. It didn't have a flourishing gay community. The only exposure I saw of any gay culture was extremely effeminate and that was what was on TV. I'm not like Jack on Will and Grace, so I'm not gay."

Parrow kept his sexuality hidden for years, instead focusing on "manly stuff" to keep himself distracted and others from becoming suspicious.

"I played football and did manly stuff. It wasn't because I was gay. Those were the things I gravitate to – competitive stuff."

He also tried dating women. "In the beginning, when you're younger, it's easy – you're young. But the older I got, the harder it got for me to have any kind of emotional relationship with a woman. I would find ways to end it."

It wasn't until he was in his late 20s that he started exploring his sexuality. Unfortunately, his first experiences dating men didn't go so well.

Gay men can be the meanest, cruelest people you've ever met in your life. I was "fat", I was "ugly", I'm a "closet case", and at the time I was just looking to understand what's going on. And so that put me further back in the closet than going forward.

Parrow says eventually he sunk into a deep depression. He felt like a liar and a fraud for keeping his true identity a secret. He began drinking heavily and having thoughts of suicide. He even tried conversion therapy.

"It was an absolute joke," he recalls.

It wasn't until he began seeing an actual therapist and working on accepting himself that things got better. Then he met his fiancee, Morgan. Morgan helped him find the courage to come out to his family and wrestling colleagues.

"Anyone I ever told thought I was kidding," he says. "Their perception of gay men was totally different. So when I tell them, they get shocked, but every time I tell someone it gets easier rather than harder, and I always try to tell people that."

The rodeo rides into town

The Keystone State Charity Rodeo is an all-inclusive, family-friendly, unique rodeo experience and community event. Men, women, members of the LGBTQ community and their straight allies will be competing equally in all rodeo events. The Keystone rodeo took place last year in June.

A portion of the rodeo proceeds will go directly to our charity partner, the LGBT Center of Central PA. The Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender (LGBT) Center of Central PA is a volunteer led effort to create a regionally representative community center that is both a location and a unifying point for central Pennsylvania's large, diverse, and multi-county LGBT population.

During the rodeo weekend, events are:

- a junior rodeo the night of Friday, June 22 for participants ages 12-18
- an IGRA (International Gay Rodeo Association) sanctioned rodeo Saturday and Sunday starting at 9:30 AM
- vendors, events for kids, line dance lessons and a country dance on Saturday night.

The rodeo weekend will feature some traditional rodeo events such as bull riding, barrel racing and calf roping and includes some unique rodeo events, such as Goat dressing, the Wild Drag Race and Steer Decorating.

The rodeo is being presented by the following sponsors: Rowan Tree Lounge, Baltimore, MD; Weichert Realtors, Baltimore, MD; *Baltimore Outloud*, Baltimore, MD; Leon's, Baltimore, MD; and *The Central Voice*, Harrisburg, PA.

Want to help?

The rodeo is looking for volunteers and sponsors. There will also be vendor spots available for non-profit and for-profit organizations. Ticket sales for admittance to the rodeo will start March 1, 2018.

The Keystone State Gay Rodeo Association is 501c3 tax-exempt non-profit organization who purpose is to promote the country and western lifestyle and rodeo type events within the LGBTQ community and their allies. The Keystone State Gay Rodeo Association is a member association of the International Gay Rodeo Association.

INFO - http://www.ksgra.org

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What do U2, Lady Gaga & Taylor Swift share? Lititz

Deep in Amish country, Tait Towers designs live sets for the world's biggest music acts. Its aim? To make rock stars' visions come alive

By Stephen Armstrong

Deep in central Pennsylvania's Amish country, Tait Towers designs live sets for the world's biggest music acts.

PHOTOGRAPHED BY WIRED IN 2017, CHRIS CRISMAN

In December 2016, designer Ric Lipson was in New York on a conference call with Bono, The Edge, Adam Clayton and Larry Mullen Jr. Lipson is a senior associate at London-based design firm Stufish, the company that, along with U2's set designer Willie Williams, has created all of the band's tours since 1992's Zoo TV.

In October 2016, U2 had played software giant Salesforce's annual conference on the site of the old Geneva Drive-In Theatre in Daly City, California. In homage to the Geneva, the stage had a movie screen and little else.

Now, the band wanted something similar for *The Joshua Tree* anniversary tour in 2017. The four musicians were leafing through proposed designs from Stufish and Williams when Bono grabbed a Sharpie and drew a rough outline of a Joshua tree breaking out through the top of the screen. That's what should be on the stage, he told Lipson.

It's always a difficult moment for designers such as Lipson and Williams when rock stars doodle their concepts for stage shows. To get a stadium tour from notion to opening night costs tens of millions. Thousands of people are needed to design, build, assemble, market and sell the show. The technology involved often doesn't exist yet.

In this case, at first, the set design looked simple - a 61-metre-wide, 14-metre-high 8K LED video screen painted gold with a silhouette of a Joshua tree picked out in silver. During the second half of the show, the screen would show epic high-definition American landscapes shot by photographer and director Anton Corbijn. There would also be a tree-shaped catwalk and satellite stage extending into the audience, plus steel trusses that dangled lights and speakers high above the stage.

The "ecstatic pause" moment in U2's 30th-anniversary *The Joshua Tree* tour, captured at the BC Place Stadium in Vancouver on May 2017, Chris Crisman

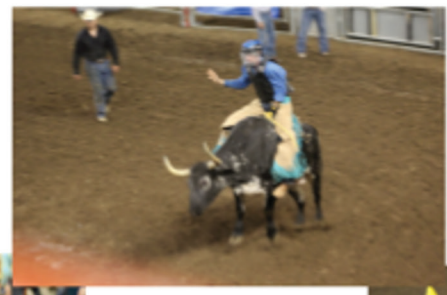
To deliver that concept, however, required at least three world-first equipment prototypes: a video-controlled follow-spotlight that tracked performers using a CCTV system; a state-of-the-art carbon-fibre video screen (the largest and highest resolution ever used for a concert tour, with pixels just 8.5mm apart); and prototype speakers from audio specialists Clair Brothers that are so powerful, only 16 speakers are needed to flood even the largest stadium with sound. Furthermore, the various technical and safety standards involved meant that the stage would take three days to put up and take down, so there would need to be two sets of steel supports moving around the world at the same time, with, for instance, one under construction in Berlin as the band walked on stage in London.

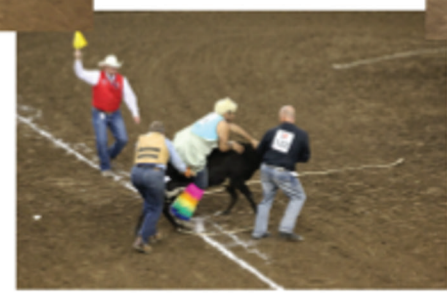
"At that point, we didn't know what the kit would be, beyond the hope that technology just on the cusp of being possible would be invented in time for the start of the tour in May," Lipson says. "But rock stars don't want to hear problems and our job is not to say, 'That's impossible' - our job is to say, 'Yes, of course.'"

To get Bono's tree from sketch to stadium, Stufish and the band decamped to Lititz, a rural town in Pennsylvania. Lititz is home to Tait Towers, the architectural engineering and software company that has built the sets for every one of the ten highest-grossing tours in history using a blend of rock'n'roll engineering, technology - and a little help from the Amish community.

In 1968, a young Australian backpacker called Michael Tait took a job behind the bar at The Speakeasy Club, a late-night music industry haunt just off Oxford Street in London run by a friend of the

Please see **LITITZ**, page **15**





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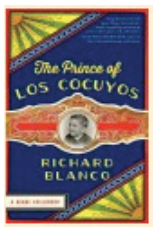
Spring into a good read with these book selections

As you wait for the long winter days to turn into spring, consider relaxing with a good book and maybe adding one or more of these biographies to your reading list. The Dauphin County Library System is a great place to start your journey for great reading.

Dauphin County Library Book Reviews

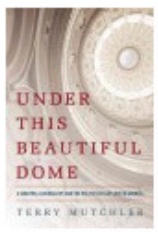
By Yvonne Carmichael

The Prince of Los Cocuyos: A Miami Childhood by Richard Blanco



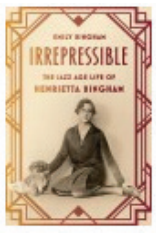
"Explores the poet's coming-of-age as the child of Cuban immigrants in Miami, Florida, describing his attempts to understand his place in America while coping with his burgeoning artistic and sexual identities." (From Amazon)

Under This Beautiful Dome: A Senator, a Journalist, and the Politics of Gay Love in America by Terry Mutchler



"Under This Beautiful Dome tells the true story of journalist Terry Mutchler's secret five-year relationship with Penny Severns, an Illinois State senator who mentored Barack Obama. Forced to engage in an elaborate ruse to keep their relationship a secret, the two women constantly fear discovery in their conservative town. Denied legal access to the altar, they face even greater hardships when Penny is diagnosed with cancer and begins undergoing treatment." (From the publisher)

Irrepressible: The Jazz Age Life of Henrietta Bingham by Emily Bingham



"Raised like a princess in one of the most powerful families in the American South, Henrietta was offered the helm of a publishing empire. Instead, she ripped through the Jazz Age like an F. Scott Fitzgerald character: intoxicating and intoxicated, selfish and shameful, seductive and brilliant, and often terribly troubled. In New York, Louisville, and London she drove men and women wild with desire, and her youth blazed with sex. But her lesbian love affairs made her the subject of derision and drove a doctor to try to cure her. After the speed and pleasure of her youth, the toxicity of judgment coupled with her own anxieties led to years of addiction and breakdowns, « (From NoveList)

I Left It on The Mountain by Kevin Sessums

"[Journalist and actor Kevin] Sessums chronicles his early days in NY as an actor, his years working for Andy Warhol at Interview and Tina Brown at Vanity Fair, countless nights of anonymous sex, his HIV-positive diagnosis, and his descent into addiction. It's also the chronicle of one man's spiritual redemption found while climbing to the top of Mt. Kilimanjaro, walking the Camino de Santiago de Compostelo, and trudging across the cold, lonely winter beaches of Provincetown." (From the publisher)

Not So Good a Gay Man by Frank M. Robinson.

"Frank M. Robinson (1926-2014) accomplished a great deal in his long life, working in magazine publishing, including a stint for Playboy, and writing science fiction such as The Power, The Dark Beyond the Stars, and thrillers such as The Glass Inferno (filmed as The Towering Inferno). Robinson also passionately engaged in politics, fighting for gay rights, and most famously writing speeches for his good friend Harvey Milk in San Francisco. This deeply personal autobiography, addressed to a friend in the gay community, explains the life of one gay man over eight decades in America. By turns witty, charming, and poignant, this memoir grants insights into Robinson›s work not just as a journalist and writer, but as a gay man navigating the often perilous social landscape of 20th century life in the United States." (From the publisher)

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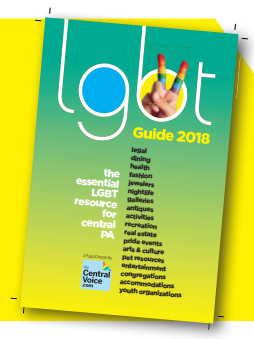

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April 6th - May 10th:
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April 6th, 5-8 pm:
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GUERILLA GAY BARS: Pop up in York

from page 1

bar gathering to York began when the gay bars in the county began to close.

Any particularly bad experiences?

"None." Serpe says.

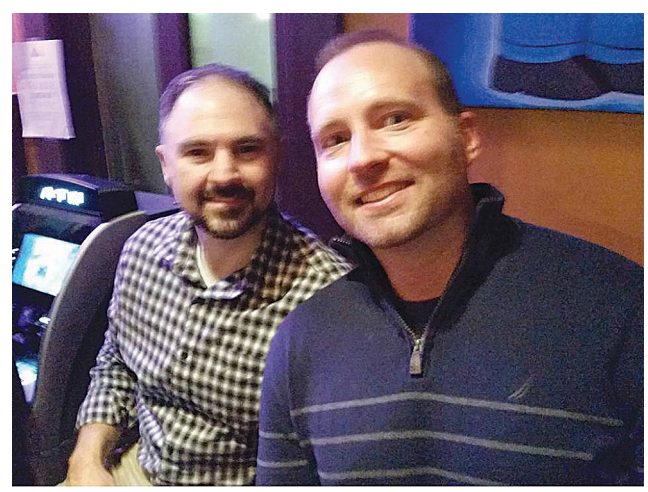
"We've been choosing restaurant/bars so people in recovery, those under 21, or people who don't "do bars" can come early have dinner and feel welcome. So it's great to watch people, reconnect with old friends or put yourself out there and meet new people," Serpe says.

He notes "The look on the faces of the wait staff when they realize they are being inundated with a happy, crowd that will hang around until closing." Local bars contact the group's Facebook page asking GGB York "to take them over."

Serpe also notices that people who attended don't stand in a crowd with a cell phone up to their face. "You hear loud shrieks of laughter. Folks running into long-time friends. It's quite a scene," he says.

He also explains "for the record, I pay for my own beverages. The bars have no idea I am selecting the venue each month." GGB York is about "bringing every facet of this community together in a fun and interesting place and making it our own."

INFO - Guerrilla Gay Bar York, PA on Facebook



The man behind the guerilla

Originally from Long Island, New York, (where he had a neighbor named Frank Pizzoli, not *The Central Voice* founder), Ralph Serpe began his career in banking. He later served for five years as executive director of the Lesbian and Gay Community Center in San Jose, CA, a center that sprang up after the notorious Briggs Initiative aimed at firing or not hiring gay or lesbian public school teachers. Then California gov. Ronald Reagan opposed the bill, telling the *Los Angeles Herald-Examiner:* "Whatever else it is, homosexuality is not a contagious disease like the measles. Prevailing scientific opinion is that an individual's sexuality is determined at a very early age and that a child's teachers do not really influence this."

Serpe also served for two years with the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, producers of Creating Change, the nation's largest activist venue. *The Central Voice* served a media sponsor when the event was held in Philadelphia last year.

He is currently the President and CEO of the Adams County Community Foundation.

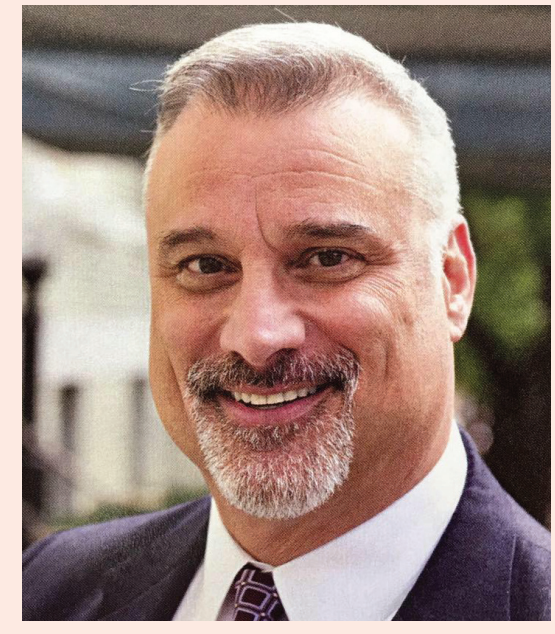
What does Serpe think is the LGBTQ community's biggest challenge right now?

"Our biggest challenge just may be how we as a community, continue to move this gay freedom train forward without leaving anyone off at the last stop. Every issue facing this country affects us and we need to step up and ensure we are at the table.

"The inappropriate omission of our lives needs to stop," Serpe says.

Political interests?

"I'm gay. That means I am required to vote in each and every election! It's part of the contract you sign when you come out of the closet," he says.



Ralph Serpe, founder of Guerilla Gay Bar - York

Theatre and arts for March & April

Improvapalooza 2018
Gamut
Fri., March 30, 7:30 PM 9:30 PM

An Evening of Improvisational Comedy, featuring the area's most beloved improv theatre troupes. Harrisburg Improv Theatre, The Oxymorons, Safe Word, and Gamut's own TMI can be seen in one location at one event! These "April fools" will be performing appropriately on April Fools Day weekend. Doors and bar open at 6:30 and will remain open throughout the event. Tickets are $15 at 717- 238-4111.

Suspended Spaces
The Art Association of Harrisburg
through March 29

Artwork by Kathleen Kase Burk, Kirby Heltebridle, Jeff Hubert, Virginia Cohn Parkum, and Robert Studzinski

Guys And Dolls
Fulton Theatre
March 6-31

Love is a game of chance, especially amidst the hustle and bustle of New York City. Gamester Nathan Detroit's focus is on his next big payoff, which could cost him the love of his life. Showgirl Adelaide's growing frustration with getting Nathan to marry her continues to grow, but will she take a gamble on him anyway? Nathan, trying to make a quick grand for his next craps game, bets another compulsive gambler to woo a missionary doll for $1,000. ." Box office - 717-397-7425

The Flick by Annie Baker,
directed by Stuart Landon
Open Stage of Harrisburg
at Midtown Cinema
March 25 - April 22

Three underpaid employees sweep up stale popcorn in a run-down movie house called The Flick, one of the last theaters in Massachusetts still projecting 35mm films. For Avery, this isn't a dead-end job. It's a way to get closer to the art form he loves. Passionate debates about cinema lead to a friendship of sorts with co-workers Sam and Rose. But will their tentative bond survive as they reveal what they actually need from each other? The Flick is a heartfelt cry for the kind of authentic connection we all want, even if we're a little afraid of it. Winner of the 2014 Pulitzer Prize for Drama Box office- 717-232-6736

LITITZ: Setting the stage from page 11

infamous Kray twins. If anyone wanted a career in music, getting into - or best of all, getting to play at - The Speakeasy was the fastest route to stardom until it closed in 1978. The Beatles, David Bowie, Bob Marley, Pink Floyd, the Rolling Stones, Elton John and Jimi Hendrix all graced its dingy stage.

When the manager of a bunch of prog-rock newbies called Yes spent the evening touting for a van driver to get his boys to a gig in Leeds, Tait volunteered. He was stunned at the shoddiness of the band's equipment and lighting - guitarist Peter Banks kept stamping on his effects pedals, breaking them almost every time. "I realised that I could make all this stuff work," he explains. Tait became Yes's tour manager, sound engineer and lighting designer for the next 15 years.

Out on the road he leveraged his childhood love of electrical circuit kits, batteries and bulbs to devise edged boards that kept wah-wah pedals and fuzzboxes safe from stomping, create the first revolving stage in rock and design one of the first self-contained lighting towers. Other acts loved his ideas. Soon, he was working with Barry Manilow and Neil Diamond.

"Before I knew it, I was in the set business," Tait explains. He founded Tait Towers in 1978, naming the company after his industry-famous lighting tower, and located its headquarters out in Lititz, to be near his close collaborators, the Clair Brothers.

The Clair brothers - Roy and Gene - built their first speakers in 1966 when Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons played Franklin & Marshall College in Lancaster, near Lititz. Roy and Gene's PA so impressed the band that Valli took them on the road with him. In 1970, the brothers designed and built the first stage monitor, and two years later the first hanging sound system for indoor arenas. By 1978, the brothers were the first port of call for any band heading out on the road. They saw no reason to leave Lititz, so Tait set up nearby.

In the 80s, Tait built the stage that Michael Jackson moonwalked on, as well as sets for Bruce Springsteen and U2. The company built the stage for the Rolling Stones' record-breaking Voodoo Lounge tour in 1994 and the video screen for Janet Jackson's *Velvet Rope* tour in 1998. "Even then, it was more like a hobby," explains James Fairorth, Tait's president and CEO - a well-built, genial man with a loose ponytail who everyone knows as "Winky". "Michael Tait was Willy Wonka and we were working in a dream factory - building stage sets because nobody else was."

Then 1999 arrived, the file-sharing site Napster launched - and Tait's world changed overnight.

For the entire article about rock music's ties to Amish country visit: http://www.wired.co.uk/article/tait-towers-amish-music-concerts-stage. Stephen Armstrong is a freelance writer. This article was first published in the February 2018 issue of WIRED magazine.

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Catholic Bishops spearhead letter rejecting transgender kids

Religious leaders dismiss the legitimacy of transgender identities as a "false idea."

By Zack Ford

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) has issued a new open letter, signed by many other religious leaders, rejecting the legitimacy of transgender identities. Titled "Created Male and Female," the open letter asserts that gender and sex "cannot be separated," calling it a "false idea" that "goes against reason" and "deeply troubling" notion "that a man can be or become a woman or vice versa."

The letter attempts to simultaneously show compassion to transgender people while simultaneously condemning them. "A person's discomfort with his or her sex, or the desire to be identified as the other sex, is a complicated reality that needs to be addressed with sensitivity and truth," the letter states. Trans people deserve "to be heard and treated with respect," and when they express "concerns" or discuss "wrestling with this challenge," religious leaders should respond "with compassion, mercy, and honesty" — but not affirmation.

One section of the letter directly encourages parents to reject their transgender children, claiming that they are "harmed" when they are affirmed in their identities:

Children especially are harmed when they are told that they can "change" their sex or, further, given hormones that will affect their development and possibly render them infertile as adults. Parents deserve better guidance on these important decisions, and we urge our medical institutions to honor the basic medical principle of "first, do no harm." Gender ideology harms individuals and societies by sowing confusion and self-doubt. The state itself has a compelling interest, therefore, in maintaining policies that uphold the scientific fact of human biology and supporting the social institutions and norms that surround it.

Contrary to these claims, studies have found that how parents respond to their children's gender identities can have drastic consequences for their mental health. When families reject their children for being transgender, it can significantly increase their depression and suicidal thinking. But when families affirm their kids in their gender identities, it's one of the strongest buffers against those consequences, allowing them to be as happy and healthy as their peers who aren't transgender. Trans kids are not full of "confusion and self-doubt," and treating them like they are, as these religious leaders recommend, can be remarkably damaging.

In addition to several USCCB officials, the open letter was also signed by leaders from the Anglican Church in North America, the North American Lutheran Church, the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, and others. Among the signers was Andrew Walker of the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission. Earlier this year, Walker published a book called God and the Transgender Debate, which essentially laid out a series of religious arguments for rejecting transgender people. In it, he claimed that trans people are responsible for their own suffering for rejecting God, which the USCCB letter also implies.

"Gender ideology harms individuals and societies by sowing confusion and self-doubt."

- From an open letter by The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

According to the letter, it's the people who condemn transgender identities who are the true victims. The "movement" to respect transgender people is "deeply troubling" and "compels people to either go against reason — that is, to agree with something that is not true — or face ridicule, marginalization, and other forms of retaliation." In all of the letter's talk of compassion, it does not reference the discrimination of transgender people experience in employment, housing, health care, education, the justice system, and public accommodations.

This latest rejection of transgender people is not inconsistent with prior Catholic teaching. Last year, Pope Francis called it "ideological colonization to teach that students can "choose their gender."

Though the Catholic Church and Southern Baptist Convention are the largest denominations in the U.S., there are many religious leaders who advocate on behalf of transgender people, including leaders from both of those denominations

Lead, follow, or get out of the way

Making Sense of Life

By Dr. Terry Drew Karanen

What are leaders supposed to do? Leaders are supposed to lead. That seems like a no-brainer. Yet we see very little leading today in the news.

We certainly see people in power spouting rhetoric and hyperbole. The former is a socially acceptable, polite way of saying someone is expressing the same old crap without any solution; or, telling out-and-out lies to make oneself, ones party, or ones ideology look good. The latter is particularly effective for convincing the easily-led-astray and the uneducated; or, placating people in agreement with the ideas of hatred, bigotry, and xenophobia one might support.

This article is not to encourage you to sign petitions; show up at demonstrations; tweet and post; vote or register to vote; or, run for public office. Those suggestions are excellent ways to affect change in our world and local communities, of course, and I believe we should all be doing those things if we are drawn to do so. Rather, I'm thinking about something a bit more basic: Individually and personally leading in ways that are unique to each of us.

"...if the basis of who we are as an individual is in opposition to what we are attempting to promote we will fall flat on our face."

To lead effectively a sterling quality is required, seldom seen in many politicians and other leaders: Integrity. This also requires an action step that is more difficult than finger-pointing and blaming: Taking responsibility for our actions.

John Quincy Adams is quoted as saying: If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more, and become more, you are a leader. Adams is not one of our best-known, stellar presidents. His best work was done before and after his presidency. As a diplomat "he set the essential marks of American foreign policy for [over a century] … He was a principled politician after serving as president, focused on the antislavery movement (Wagner, 2018)."

Why are this quote and this man important? Note the lack of need to bully, to lie, to mislead, or to get people to do things for one's own benefit anywhere in this admonition. The Adams' quote speaks to our need to take personal responsibility with integrity to serve others. How can we best do that?

The best way to demonstrate that we are committed to any cause is to act in a way that is consistent with the values of that undertaking. To be effective, we must be consistently mindful of our vision and mission in life. In other words, if the basis of who we are as an individual is in opposition to what we are attempting to promote we will fall flat on our face.

We've seen this all-too-often in politics. The legislator who derides gay men is found having sex with a street hustler. We discover that the religious leader who speaks out against abortion took her daughter to a clinic to have one. This list goes on and speaks to another issue that we must recognize.

Nothing we do is private any more. Have you ever posted a comment on social media, and then have it come back to bite you in the ass? Been there, done that, got the t-shirt … and the bite marks, which in one case is still healing.

I'd be hard-pressed to think of anyone I know that, if asked, wouldn't respond with a roll of the eyes, a very deep sigh, or by throwing their hands up in the air. It's one thing to misspeak, or say something out of a brief moment of anger or upset directly to another person. It's a completely different ballgame when what we say can literally fly around the world in a manner of minutes or seconds for everyone and anyone to see and critique.

In the world of social media there is no privacy, so mean what you say online or in print (and in person) and standby your convictions. This is especially important if we are going to be taken seriously in regard to issues about which we are concerned, or movements we desire to promote. Social media is a far more effective when we are promoting solutions, not lambasting an opponent or repeatedly reminding our readers of consistent failure.

Above and beyond the lack of privacy, however, this issue is part of a much larger conversation about how we present ourselves, both privately and to the world. Granted, we are going to act differently in some ways with friends as opposed to business colleagues or strangers. But none of our actions or words should be diametrically opposed to the essence of who we are as a person.

Consider how you might better lead by example, or take on a leadership role. And, in that process, recognize that – titled or not – you are already a leader. We all are on some level. The only questions that remain are whether or not we're going to embrace this responsibility, and how best to exercise the power we all have.

Lead us.

Terry is an award-winning author, speaker, licensed social worker and flight attendant. Read his weekly blog at The Central Voice at thecentralvoice.com or on his website at: blog.terrydrewkaranen.com. He is also the director of Spirit, Mind and Body Foundation (spiritmindbodyfoundation.org).

OUT & ABOUT

Scenes from around the midstate

THE BRAIN WRAP PODCAST

"It's a movie that was lush on every level," said Ryan Cohick, one of five people who participated in a podcast for *The Brain Wrap* on the film *Call Me By Your Name*. The podcasts are produced by Midtown Cinema. The popular gay film was written by Andre Aciman, 66, a Sapharti Jew raised in Egypt who teaches Marcel Proust and in 2007 won the Gay Fiction award from Lambda Literary Review. *Link - https://audioboom.com/channels/4928314*

From left: Clarke Stephanic, Brain Wrap producer; moderator Nick Lucier, who studies communications at Penn State Harrisburg; Frank Pizzoli, The Central Voice founder and long-time writer for Lambda Literary Review; film buffs Josh Wacker, who studied film at Messiah College; and Andrew Zelinski (who speaks fluent Italian), and Cohick, who read Aciman's book set in Italy; and Josh Wacker, who studied film at Messiah College; discussed the popular film with moderator Nick Lucier, who is studying communications at Penn State Harrisburg.

GETTYSBURG RISING

Lincoln Square, Gettysburg, Jan. 20, when about 100 people assembled for Gettysburg Women's March, one of events held across the nation. The theme of the march was "Act Locally" and featured (second photo) Yeimi Gagliardi, board member of Hispanic American Center Manos Unidas, who addressed the crowd in both English and Spanish.

HELPING AT HABITAT'S RESTORE

Helping With Pride gathered at Habitat for Humanity's ReStore Feb. 3 to volunteer a few hours. "It's my favorite place. I shop here a lot," said one member of the group. The store's inventory is 100% donation-based meaning that the inventory changes daily.

BOGGS HONORED BY CHAMBER

Russ Boggs, left, with his partner John at his side, received an award from the Central Pennsylvania Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce at the organization's annual dinner in January. Boggs has been a stalwart supporter of the chamber's efforts from its earliest days. He is a longtime member of the board of directors.

PHOTO CREDIT: CASSANDRA STORM PHOTOGRAPHY

No single-issue fight for this local organizer

Adanjesus Marin organized his first protest in the fourth grade.

By Frank Pizzoli

When a teacher tried to segregate his fourth-grade classroom "I organized a walk-out," Adanjesus Marin tells *The Central Voice*.

"It was then that I saw the potential for organizing against the establishment and learned the power of collective multiracial direct action and organizing," he says.

Marin is Director of Make the Road PA, the state's largest Latinx organization, which began in Reading, PA. The organization has added an Organizing Center in Allentown, PA and Organizing Committees in Northeast portion of the state.

Growing pains

He grew up in San Antonio, Texas, where he had to drop out of school and began working for a local union. "I used my youth to sneak on to school campuses unnoticed and have organizing conversations with the workers there. Since that time he's worked relentlessly in many youth, student, tenant, immigrant, and worker social justice movements.

While living in New York, he co-founded the Student Liberation Action Movement, leading struggles against tuition increases, police brutality and murder, and in defense of CUNY's affirmative action Open Admissions policy.

"Of my 26 years full-time in the movement, most have been spent organizing workers, ranging from janitors to college professors," Marin says.

As the Organizing Director of the NY Independent Farmworkers Center, he won the first ever union contract in the state for farmworkers. Here in Pennsylvania, Marin has spent 10 years organizing healthcare workers with SEIU HCPA.

"The struggle for worker rights is central to me. We make the country run and deserve to have a country that works for us," Marin says, summarizing his position.

One of my proudest accomplishments, he says, is having worked with SEIU HCPA in helping to lead a statewide coalition that defeated Governor Tom Corbett's re-election.

Marin recently served as co-chair of Pennsylvania Pride at Work, the AFL-CIO LGBTQIA constituency group. Prior to that, he served as President of Equality PA, leading that organization during the court victory for marriage equality, the election of the first out Pennsylvania State Representative, and passage of dozens of local non-discrimination ordinances.

He is also a 2017 FAB Award recipient.

Busy is the word

When then-Commissioner Scott Martin announced his plans to abolish the Lancaster County Human Relations Commission, he was Chair of the body. He organized the Lancaster Committee to Defend Civil Rights, "which became one of the largest and broadest civil rights county-wide coalitions in Lancaster's history, uniting faith, business, labor, women's, LGBT, student, Latinx, and African American organizations". Later, he was recognized by the Lancaster NAACP as Civil Rights Leader of the Year. "The hundreds of diverse Lancaster residents who stood up and fought for civil rights had a lasting impact on the county and on me," he reflects.

In his current role, Marin builds "power for justice through organizing". He cites the iconic Audre Lorde's outlook. "There is no single-issue fight. We tackle strategic issues that affect our community. We're scrappy, but fight every day to build the movement for justice."

Three years ago

MRPA was founded almost three years ago. "Since then we have grown to be the largest Latino organization in the state. We fight around broad issues of social and economic justice like the Fight for $15, queer rights, women's equity, for immigration reform, against police brutality and systemic racism.

Currently the organization has 17 staff coordinating multiple committees such as Comite de Lucha (Fight Committee), Juventud en Camino (Youth Committee), Comite de Padres (Parents Committee), Amor y Rabia (LGBTQ+ Committee), and other organizations meet in our offices to help build power with their bases as well.

Since President Trump's inauguration, Marin says, "We have been a leading force in PA Resistance, standing up and fighting back against the right wing policies and goals of the administration."

He notes that "members have bravely stood up and put their safety on the line while fighting for justice for everyone." MRPA also help lead the #paResist coalition which in 2017 organized over 100 rallies and local actions including the two largest days of action in Pennsylvania history.

"Last year when stupid Republicans attacked the rights of trans youth by denying them necessary healthcare, our LGBTQ+ committee, Amor Y Rabia, helped organize the fightback and eventual victory against that attack," Marin notes.

Credo

Marin is passionate.

"Now, more than ever is the time for all of us to realize that we need the energy that was given to us by the generation of Marsha P. Johnson and Sylvia Rivera. The energy that they gave us from that generation is the only thing that will help us survive. Our community is under attack every single day and we cannot be only for marriage equality or only for gay rights without aligning with all the other movements. The only path for our liberation is for us to join together with every single group that is facing oppression from the very same enemy. We must stand with Black Lives Matter, with immigrant communities with women's rights, with all of them. That is the true path of resistance and it is the only way that we will survive this administration's attacks or the next administration's attacks," he says.

"We're a scrappy organization with few resources other than the determination of our members and leaders to win a better world for everyone," Marin concludes.

INFO - https://www.facebook.com/Maketheroadpa, www.twitter.com/Maketheroadpa

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Make the Road Pennsylvania organizes low-income and working class Latinx immigrants in the Lehigh Valley, NEPA and Berks County to fight for change in their communities. Launched in 2014, MRPA has already established a strong and growing base of committed members and has been actively advancing several important campaigns.

Since founded the organization has :

- *Successfully advocated at the state level for fair funding for all students in PA*
- *Rallied in Washington DC numerous times to demand that the federal government bring real relief for Puerto Rico after the devastation of Hurricane Maria.*
- *Registered thousands of voters*
- *Mobilized thousands of PA residents into action for social justice*
- *Secured the first parental ID issued by a school district in the country for parents and guardians of students*
- *Organized the largest march in the state against the proposed military trans ban*
- *Repeatedly organized against attempts to dismantle the ACA*
- *Stood with Planned Parenthood against attempts to ban abortion and defund an essential healthcare provider for working class, immigrant, and LBGTQ communities.*
- *Organized hundreds of workers to go on strike and 123 businesses to shut down on May 1, 2017, demanding fair immigration reform and an end to the county's proposal to enact anti-immigrant enforcement*
- *Distributed coats to over 100 families who were evacuated from Puerto Rico to Pennsylvania*

Jan. 28, the Harrisburg chapter of the Democratic Socialists of America kicked off a new Reading Group.

HARRISBURG SOCIALISTS:

from page 1

The Communist Manifesto Marx and Engels use a bit of humor that rings true today. They acknowledged that "Communist" was commonly used as a slur and then launched into their own explanation of what communism really is.

Another participant added that today, the pamphlet's explanations are "what people need to understand about communism to like it". He pointed out that the message would resonate with most working people - that their labor is equal to the cost of production, and that those who control the means of production give workers only enough money to barely get by.

"That's true of today's Gig economy," noted another participant.

A Gig economy is an environment in which temporary positions are common and organizations contract with independent workers for short-term engagements. The trend toward a gig economy has begun. A study by Intuit predicted that by 2020, 40 percent of American workers would be independent contractors. Generally, Gig economy jobs do not include health care benefits, retirement plans, paid vacation, or even sick days.

One participant pointed out that "in today's Gig economy people are taught to think of ourselves as capital, a function of the American value of pulling oneself up by the bootstraps."

Adding to this thought, another participant said, "the game is rigged, but we keep trying to beat the Gig economy," which offers no benefits, retirement. "Workers must juggle two or three Gig economy jobs with low pay in order to survive," the participant explained.

Alien beings?

Alienation is a theme in the writings of Marx. One participant gave an example of workplace "alienation" when he was employed in a "therapeutic support job" and having no office hours - and therefore no time to interact with other workers. All his duties were performed outside of any established workplace, on a virtual basis. "I was also offered the supposed benefit of 'optional hours' which the employer used to avoid paying actual benefits," he explained.

Someone else added the observation that there are no break rooms in Uber as a further example of the "total alienation" of workers from one another in the Gig economy.

Medium still message?

In the 60s, Marshall McLuhan said: The medium is the message. The Canadian professor also coined the phrase "global village" and predicted the World Wide Web almost 30 years before it was invented.

Some participants observed that one phenomena preventing groups like DSA from getting out their message is the chaos set into motion by the capitalist system's major players, who have the greatest marketing power. In other words, those who control marketing also define our history, analogous to Winston Churchill saying "History is written by the victors."

A group member added that schools contribute to powerful myths of capitalist American exceptionalism by teaching, for example, that the American Revolution was purely about freedom. "Great, I don't want to be a subject of the King George III, but the revolution was also about how slave owners didn't want to pay taxes."

Another member pointed out the familiar narrative of "a moral US intervention in World War II", and how that narrative often ignores the research, strategy, and loss contributed by the Communist USSR on the Eastern Front. Although the exact figures are disputed, The Soviet Union's World War II civilian and military casualties from all related causes are estimated at more than 20 million.

The meeting ended on a hopeful note with participants agreeing to continue learning "how to take care of each other," as one participant said.

"Turning that learning into practice," shared another group member, "is a way to fight the capitalist system that functions to ensure that we don't know how to do that."

QUICK FACTS:

• Since the election of President Trump, 24,000 people have joined the Democratic Socialists of America, founded in 1982.

• About 75% of the new members are under the age of 35.

• The highest membership ever reached was 6,000, in 1989 when DSA founder Michael Harrington died. His popular book The Other America (1962) formed the basis for President Lyndon Johnson's War on Poverty.

• The organization's current hot button issue is Medicare for All.

• There are 300 local chapters in the US.

• The Rose (which is part of the DSA logo) is an old Socialist symbol resurrected by DSA.

Up close & personal with a local Socialist

By Louie Marven

EDITOR'S NOTE: Louie Marven spoke with Joseph Gauger, 30, a participant in a Jan. 28 book discussion group of the Harrisburg chapter of the Democratic Socialists of America. About 15 people gathered for a discussion on the Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels pamphlet, The Communist Manifesto. After the meeting, Gauger shared some of his own insights into Socialism with Marven. Gauger emphasized that he is speaking for himself and not on behalf of Harrisburg DSA. He grew up in central Pennsylvania.

Joseph Gauger, 30, a participant in a January book discussion group of the Harrisburg chapter of the Democratic Socialists of America.

Louie Marven: Are you a Socialist? Would you use other or additional labels to describe your politics?

Joseph Gauger: I am a Socialist and have identified as such for my whole adult life, but I would have defined Socialism very differently 10 years ago. In those days I would have included under the mantle of Socialism things like strong progressive income taxes and generous social spending--what is often referred to as 'social democracy.' Today I'd make the distinction that these things are not a form of Socialism proper because they don't completely revoke private control of the economy. In short, to me Socialism represents not a redistribution of income but a redistribution of power.

Private control of economic resources limits the ability of most people in society to exercise democratic control in most areas of their lives. This is what we're trying to emphasize in calling ourselves 'democratic Socialists'--we are working for the abolition of private control of the means of production in order to replace it with genuinely democratic arrangements in society.

LM: In what ways to you engage with electoral politics?

JG: I don't engage much with electoral politics because I think our resources are better spent elsewhere. I'm registered to vote in Democratic primaries on the off-chance that a strong enough progressive candidate challenges a centrist Democrat, as happened in the race between Bernie Sanders and Hillary Clinton. I wouldn't miss the opportunity to vote for any candidate who supports abortion rights in a primary run against Sen. Bob Casey this year. However, in my understanding voting is more of a gesture or formality.

Effective politics involves collective action. It's much broader than what happens in the voting booth. Building Socialism will entail a great deal of work to organize and educate people, and will require effort devoted to anti-Capitalist practice that would vindicate the idea of replacing the major institutions of society with starkly different structures. People will rightly expect us to prove to them that there is a better way. That will take a huge investment of resources, but it also presents advantages that electoral work doesn't--campaigns to provide safe housing or protect immigrant communities, for instance, are ongoing. Elections are one-and-done. Building a mass movement through those other processes doesn't face election day as a deadline. Every day you build on what you accomplished the day before.

LM: What messages, if any, did you receive about Socialism growing up? In school or at home? Was it discussed in good or bad terms?

JG: I grew up in central Pennsylvania, so I could really only expect conservative political narratives to come through from the conservative community around here. A high school teacher of mine did a short unit on Marxism in a world history class, but the ideas didn't really have space to breath. I grew up in an MSNBC-viewing household, so I absorbed a lot of that center-left worldview. On the other hand, my parents have a distinct working-class skepticism of Capitalism, so I was primed to question it. It's not hard for working people to see that they're being exploited, but Conservatives have done an exceptional job of framing politics as a narrow field

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Harrisburg Gay Men's Chorus among 27 to receive grants

The Harrisburg Gay Men's Chorus was awarded a $3,000 grant for Celebrating Female Composers from The Foundation for Enhancing Communities (TFEC). The grant category was Arts for All Partnership.

The Arts for All Partnership, a partnership between the Cultural Enrichment Fund and the Greater Harrisburg Foundation, a regional foundation of The Foundation for Enhancing Communities works to support and increase access to the arts throughout the capital region and awarded $79,785 in grant funds to 27 area nonprofits in 2017.

Also receiving grants:

• Arts Alliance of Greater Waynesboro Inc was awarded $2,000 for the Destination ARTS! Performance Fund.

• Bosler Memorial Library was awarded $3,000 for Music at Bosler.

• Capital Region Arts and Education was awarded $3,000 for Arts Master Classes.

• Capitol Theatre Foundation was awarded $2,000 for Arts in Education at the Capitol Theatre.

• Carlisle Arts Learning Center Inc was awarded $5,000 for ArtWorks!

• Central Pennsylvania Youth Ballet was awarded $4,000 for Teen Night at the Ballet.

• Cumberland Valley School of Music was awarded $5,000 for the Arts Integrated Preschool Pilot Program.

• Diocese of Harrisburg was awarded $2,683 for Saint Theresa School Piano Lab Expansion.

• Downtown Carlisle Association was awarded $4,000 for Color Carlisle: a Public Art Initiative.

• Drew Michael Taylor Foundation was awarded $1,500 for Meeting the Needs of Grievers Through Art.

• Gamut Theatre Group Inc was awarded $3,000 for 25th Annual Shakespeare in the Park.

• Harrisburg Area Community College Foundation was awarded $1,602 for Educating the Next Generation Through the Arts (EdGe) Program.

• Harrisburg Gay Men's Chorus was awarded $3,000 for Celebrating Female Composers.

• Jewish Federation of Greater Harrisburg was awarded $1,500 for JCC Senior Artist in Residency.

• Lebanon Valley Council on The Arts was awarded $2,500 for the Intergenerational Project.

• Market Square Concerts was awarded $3,500 for Market Square Concerts Soundscape Educational Outreach Program.

• Nativity School of Harrisburg was awarded $5,000 for The Nativity School of Harrisburg Arts Program.

• Open Stage of Harrisburg was awarded $3,000 for the Student Matinee Series: Akeelah and the Bee & The Diary of Anne Frank.

• Open Stage of Harrisburg was awarded $3,000 for Sankofa African American Theatre Company's Peer2Peer Education Project.

• Pennsylvania Regional Ballet was awarded $4,000 for the R.A.I.S.E. (Refined Arts Inspire Successful Education) Program.

• Retired Senior Volunteer Program of The Capital Region Inc was awarded $3,500 for The Art ZONE project.

• The Arc of Cumberland and Perry Counties (CPARC) was awarded $3,000 for the From A to X: Art Creation to eXhibit project.

• The Salvation Army Harrisburg Capital City Region was awarded $1,000 for arts programming within the 2018 Summer Youth Enrichment program.

• St. Stephen's Episcopal Cathedral was awarded $1,500 for Music by the River, Season 5.

• Susquehanna Folk Music Society Inc was awarded $2,000 for Little Pickers Family Activities.

• West Perry School District was awarded $5,000 for the Children Learn to Play Ukulele and Join in Jam Sessions with Community Musicians project.

• World Affairs Council of Harrisburg was awarded $1,500 for the 2018 International Poetry & Storytelling Competition for High School Students.

Celebrating gender diversity

Trans Central PA Topics

By Joanne Carroll

The Tenth Anniversary Keystone Conference will commence on March 7-10, 2018, and for the tenth consecutive year at the Sheraton Harrisburg-Hershey. Our theme is "A Celebration of Gender Diversity"; and is hosted annually by TransCentralPA in Pennsylvania's capital city of Harrisburg.

This conference allows members, allies, supporters, spouses, service providers and friends of the Transgender Community to come together for an informative, inspirational and joyous experience. Here, friendships are forged and renewed in a safe place.

The city of Harrisburg has proven to be a welcoming and friendly place, and has provided conferees the perfect environment to experience life in the open. Several events allow convention attendees to dine and dance in a number of well-known eateries in downtown Harrisburg.

Continuing education units are available to licensed social workers, professional counselors and marriage therapists. Bryn Mawr College Graduate School of Social Work and Social Research will provide the certification.

The conference began small and was only ever intended as an educational opportunity for the trans-identifying residents of Southeastern Pennsylvania. As its existence is becoming so widely known, the reach has expanded beyond anything TransCentralPA could have envisioned.

Growth has been exponential and the Keystone Conference is one of the largest conferences of its kind in all of North America and the world, and the attendance in 2017 was 750 attendees. This represents an estimated economic impact of from one-quarter to one-half million dollars to the economy of Harrisburg and South Central Pennsylvania. While the majority of conferees come from each of the Northeastern States and Eastern Canada, nearly every one of the 50 states and 7 Canadian provinces are represented annually.

Over the years, the conference continued to become international in scope, with registered attendees from Israel, Belgium, Spain, England, Ireland, South Africa, Australia and several South American countries and more.

Concurrently, our web presence has expanded as well as inquiries have come from nearly 88,000 people and from over 157 countries. With this level of interest, the Keystone Conference will have a tendency to grow once again.

For more information, visit www.TransCentralPA.org.

Joanne Carroll is the President of TransCentral PA. TransCentral PA is committed to providing advocacy and caring support for transgender individuals, their significant others, families, friends and allies. TransCentralPA.

LOCAL SOCIALIST: Up close and personal

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in which there's no alternative to the current system.

My mother bought me a copy of the Communist Manifesto when I was a teenager, but there was no strong influence on me for or against Socialism the way I understand it now. It was clear when I re-read the Manifesto for the reading group that I hadn't grasped Marx's core arguments the first time through. If I had, I would never have taken the position I had in college, i.e. that it wouldn't really be necessary to abolish private control of the economy.

To summarize the environment of my high school years, Socialism wasn't presented as a living option. There was one event that primed me to reject the range of mainstream opinion, making it possible to land where I did years later: the US invasion of Iraq. The war didn't bear on any of the central questions about the economy and society, at least not in my mind, but it irrevocably tainted my view of mainstream politics.

The push for war came just as I had the capacity to make independent judgments about what was going on in the world, just when I knew enough to take a little bit of a critical outlook toward current events. The elite media and political figures in America almost unanimously supported this aggressive, illegal war, and most of them took pains to slander and ridicule anyone who questioned the justifications for it.

The war turned out to be the worst moral disaster of my lifetime. It killed half a million people and created the worst refugee crisis of its decade, then set the stage for the worst refugee crisis of the next decade in a neighboring country. It was also the most devastating strategic blunder in terms of the supposed foreign-policy goals of the people who wanted it in the first place.

After that, nothing could ever happen to restore my faith in the people and institutions who were responsible for it.

LM: What are your thoughts on why DSA membership has increased so much in the last year compared to the rest of its history? (Twenty-four thousand people have joined DSA since President Donald Trump's election.)

JG: I mention the Iraq War at length because it was such a vivid experience for me, but many things have happened in recent years to discredit mainstream institutions and political ideas. I've heard lots of DSA comrades, both in person and on social media, cite the failure of Hillary Clinton in the 2016 presidential election and the likelihood that avowed Socialist Bernie Sanders would have won in her position. Clinton was favored almost unanimously by the Democratic establishment, she checked off a ton of boxes on the normal presidential-resume checklist, and then she lost to a howling oaf who couldn't be any less qualified under that rubric for who should be the president.

For a lot of us, myself included, this vindicated the idea of noisily calling oneself a Socialist and taking a different approach to politics, both to avoid being like the people who lost to Trump and to avoid looking like them.

When I looked into DSA I saw people who were insightful and dedicated, people doing work to help others and to fight oppression. I knew that work would only be more and more necessary under a Republican presidency. I never really believed in the incrementalist, technocratic vision of progress that prevails in the Democratic Party, but after 2016 my disapproval became even more acute. It became clearer than ever that we need to strike at the power structures that lead to discrimination and exploitation, to permanently undermine those power structures. Any project that accommodates them can't win in the long term because that arrangement makes it inevitable that the pendulum will swing back in the direction of injustice.

The 2016 election made it more obvious to us that the kind of work DSA does is necessary, and that it is likely to be successful.

Gay on the brain?

Tales and tips from the wacky world of homophobes

Pastor's tips for avoiding "flaming foo-foo Fruit Loop" waiters

By Pastor Adam Fannin
Pastor, Stedfast Baptist Church

If I ever go to a restaurant and sit down and here comes this flaming foo-foo fruit loop – I'm just like, oh great. I'm here to have a date night, enjoy some time with my wife and because of the lisps, I can't even, you know.

My recommendation – if you don't just get up and leave – my recommendation is just don't order anything. You sit there patiently and look around and you will find a lady that looks like a mom, that looks like a very diligent worker.

You will find somebody that you notice that's busy, that's doing stuff. You say, "Yeah, that's the one right there!" You walk up to them and you say, "Hey, what's your name? Have we had you before? Can we get you over here?" I guarantee you it always works. That's how you avoid a gay waiter.

Unsurprisingly, Stedfast Baptist is on the Southern Poverty Law Center's list titled Active Anti-LGBT Hate Groups.

Couple refuse service by that "flamboyant" gay waiter

By Dan Tracer

File this in the uncomfortably overflowing "horrible homophobic service industry experiences" folder.

A gay server has taken his story of discrimination online after encountering a straight couple who demanded a new server after being seated in his section.

The reason? They wanted someone who wasn't so "flamboyant."

Redditor PhiPhiAokigahara posted about the infuriating experience, which became an even bigger insult after he reported it to management.

In the post, titled "We demand a new server, we don't want this flamboyant gay one," he writes:

"I serve at a well-known chain Italian restaurant and was making my rounds in my section tonight. That included greeting two older white people.

"I pleasantly collected their drink order and let them know they can take their time with the menus and to let me know when they're ready.

"I'm in the kitchen talking to a coworker when the host comes through.

"'Phiphi do you have 32?' 'Yeah, why?' 'Well...they want a new server...*uhh* its because you're? gay' Cue my freak-out. Apparently the moment I left the table the husband stormed to the host stand and loudly demanded a non flamboyantly gay server because "he's a man of God and can't be around that."

Phiphi reported the unacceptable behavior to his manager. That's when the night got even worse.

I told my manager immediately in hopes that this guest would be removed. Did that happen? Nope. My manager initially gave them a stern talking to but I guess they were so polite in response my manager saw fit to not only give them full service but leave them in my section in plain sight of me despite my protests.

Luckily, not all the diners in Phiphi's section were of such strong "moral" character.

"I was fortunate to have a regular in my section to watch the whole thing and her grandson (2) gave me a hug with so much enthusiasm while she glared down the homophobes."

Still, Phiphi "spent the next hour in the back mostly in shock."

"Safe to say it ruined my night," he added.

That same regular called to complain to the unnamed chain restaurant.

Assuredly sensing lawsuit territory, Phiphi got a phone call the next day:

"I woke up today to a phone call from my boss. My regular called my manager, my general manager AND the district manager to tell them how absolutely infuriated she was over it. I got to listen to the manager who allowed their stay to apologise over and over again. It felt great to hear him so panicked over it all.

Next time the guests will be removed immediately when they make prejudiced remarks (like they should have been from the beginning!) But seriously, who does this?!

Missouri Republican Rick Brattin claims gays aren't human

Missouri state representative Rick Brattin doesn't think gay people are human beings, reports Bil Browning.

In a shocking statement made on the House floor during debate on a bill that would protect LGBT people from discrimination, Brattin made it explicitly clear that in his mind, homosexuality and humanity are incompatible.

"When you look at the tenets of religion, of the Bible, of the Qur'an, of other religions," he said Monday, "there is a distinction between homosexuality and just being a human being."

Missouri does not have any protections for LGBT people. They can be denied credit, be fired from their job, evicted from an apartment, and denied service at restaurants and bars.

The attempt to add sexual orientation and gender identity to the state's civil rights laws was withdrawn.

Instead, Republican legislators passed a bill that would require anyone suing for discrimination to prove that it was the motivating factor instead of a contributing factor – a distinction that effectively guts all existing civil rights laws currently in place.

"Today, we can make a change that will help our employers," Republican Joe Don McGaugh said. "No one in this room is for discrimination. We will still be a no-tolerance state."

The state senate sponsor of the bill to make it easier for companies to fend off allegations of misconduct is currently being sued for discrimination.

Doing difficult discussions

Ally in the Academy

By Trum Simmons

Recently I had a tough conversation with a good friend. It was tough because he thought I would agree with his basic premise, which I didn't. This surprised him and he initially couldn't understand why I argued against his position.

We were discussing a very complex subject that led us down many paths, and at times he was upset when I took a different point of view. It was complicated. Thankfully, we agreed that this would be only part one of an ongoing conversation.

Much has been written about the problems people are having communicating with one another about all the issues raised by the 2016 presidential campaign. And recently the #MeToo movement has provoked fierce discussion.

One example includes dueling columns by literary critic Daphne Merkin and *Slate* writer Christina Cauterucci regarding whether the #MeToo furor would end up making the workplace one where interrelationships would be scrutinized in a way that would make it completely joyless.

Soon thereafter on *Morning Joe,* cohosts Mika Brzezinski and Joe Scarborough had an excellent conversation with their guests about these columns. Strong feelings were evident all around in what was one of the most thoughtful and deep discussions I've heard on this type of TV show.

You could see in the eyes of the participants their struggle to say as clearly as possible what they were thinking and feeling. And it was obvious that they were carefully listening to one another. I loved it.

"Experiencing anxiety does not mean that anyone is doing anything to us that is unjust."

-Author Sara Schulman

So when my editor asked if I was familiar with writer, professor and lesbian activist Sarah Schulman's 2016 book *Conflict Is Not Abuse: Overstating Harm, Community Responsibility, and The Duty of Repair,* I checked it out.

The book covers a host of communication problems we can't go into here, but a key idea Schulman promotes is that people in conflict should communicate openly and in person, not on the phone or otherwise—such as texting—especially when one person feels threatened by the other.

According to Schulman, conflating conflict with abuse encourages people to embrace victimhood. "Confusing being mortal with being threatened can occur in any realm," she writes. "Experiencing anxiety does not mean that anyone is doing anything to us that is unjust."

Schulman also believes we need to be careful about "trigger warnings" in college classrooms, because they permit individuals with unprocessed trauma to blame other people in the present for past violations. It's more complex than that, but her point is that these warnings may preclude knowledge building that might actually help prevent future violations.

The responsibility of each individual "is to learn how to differentiate between the past and the present so that they are not blaming, scapegoating or attacking people today for pain that they have not caused but was inflicted by others long gone."

My wife, Michelle, and I have been having difficult but rewarding conversations about the #MeToo movement over the past few months. Actually, we have been having intense discussions for a long time, but they have increased in the Trump era.

We have similar worldviews in many ways, and in others the views are rather different. Michelle is biracial and was born in Hong Kong in 1966; she came to the United States when she was 6 years old, not knowing a word of English, and ended up in central Pennsylvania by fourth grade.

In 1966 I was beginning my graduate work in Tennessee and ended up in Harrisburg at about the same time as Michelle. I am a white boy who was born in New Hampshire in 1944 and spent much of the first half of my life in New England.

When it comes to race, class and gender issues, we do not see everything the same way. Michelle has done more than any other one person to educate me about what American culture looks like from the point of view of women and minorities, and sometimes her schooling of me has been a bit painful.

She says she has learned quite a few things from me as well. Perhaps we should record one of our more potent dialogues so you can get the whole picture!

So I know firsthand what it's like to engage in hard conversations. Before Michelle and before my arrival in Harrisburg I survived the years 1963-71, during which I started to become "woke." Teaching at HACC for 40 years and finding Michelle I became even more so.

Perhaps this column will spark some difficult conversations. The good news is they can be had, and they can be well worth it.

Senator Doug Jones' openly gay son is more than your "thirst trap"

By Nico Lang

It's an hour into my interview with Carson Jones, and I'm explaining to him what a "thirst trap" is.

Carson, son of recently elected Senator Doug Jones, was the source of much excitement on the gay internet after his father beat Republican Roy Moore in the Alabama runoff election. The 22-year-old, as bloggers noted, is a zookeeper in Denver and fairly easy on the eyes. "He's adorable, beardy, and has a great smile to boot," wrote U.K's *Instinct* magazine, along with photos pulled from his Instagram account.

"You got thirst trapped," I tell him, a long pause signaling his unfamiliarity with the concept. "It's when someone posts photos of themselves, often shirtless, for attention on the internet. But in this case, the internet trapped you."

Carson is new at this. It's his first media interview since his father, a former federal prosecutor, announced his intention to run for Jeff Sessions' vacated Senate seat, and the first time he's talked about his sexuality so publicly. Despite the widespread attention from the gay blogosphere, the younger Jones only came out to his parents two years ago.

It was the day that the Supreme Court legalized marriage equality in a historic June 2015 ruling, and Carson was in Australia for the summer, living and working at the Australia Zoo. The decision came down overnight because of the time difference. As he was headed to work the next day, Carson saw a rainbow on his daily drive. He kept driving and saw another rainbow, followed by yet another one after that.

After coming to terms with his sexuality during his senior year of high school, Carson believed this was a sign it was finally time to tell his parents. First he wrote down his feelings in a blog post and then he texted his mother, Louise, to read it.

"Don't wait," Carson told his mother. "Read it now."

His parents responded simply and promptly. "I love you," they said.

When I asked what made him wait three years before opening up to his family about his sexuality, Carson claims that he just wasn't ready to come out in high school. Mountain Brook, Ala. was a town as affluent as it was conservative, the kind of place where students got $60,000 BMWs on their birthdays.

But his high school experience, Carson notes, wasn't a typical one. Between the ages of 13 and 17, he volunteered 6,000 hours with the Birmingham Zoo. During his senior year, Carson left school almost every day to work with primates. He calls zookeeping the "love of [his] life," as well as a "borderline obsession."

Carson says that his parents have "always been really supportive," but it took him time after coming out to find his place in the gay community.

He went to college at the University of Georgia in Athens. The small town is known for a thriving indie music scene, which gave birth to bands like R.E.M. and The-B52s, but one of the things it doesn't have is a full-time gay bar. When Birmingham's Pride festival came around in 2016, the first full summer Carson was a proudly out gay man, he had other commitments.

But the timing of Carson's first Pride couldn't have been more momentous.

Carson cried on election night as Trump's win was announced, terrified of what it would mean for LGBTQ people like him. "I really scared and really afraid," he says.

But at this year's Pride in Denver, he didn't feel fear. He experienced an outpouring of love and solidarity. "Before then, I had never felt that I needed a community around me," he claims. "I had friends, I was great, and I was happy. But I moved to Denver and met more gay people and have more gay friends. I yearn for that community now."

Carson believes that's what his father's upset win stands for: hope.

The 63-year-old prevailed by 1.5 percentage points on over his Republican opponent, making him the first Alabama Democrat elected to the Senate in 25 years. The elder Jones trailed by as many as double digits in the special election prior to November, when nine women came forward to accuse Moore of sexual misconduct.

I asked Carson Jones when he knew that his father could win.

Carson says that he knew a little earlier than everyone else. It was election night and his grandmother was despondent. Early returns showed Moore with a comfortable lead. With 50 percent of the vote already in, the Jones campaign trailed by around 30,000 or 40,000 votes. "It looks like we're going home," his grandmother sighed.

"We're not going home!" Carson told her. "There are 600,000 votes left to come in."

The tipping point came later in the race, when the totals for more populous counties like Jefferson and Baldwin went for Jones. His victory was buoyed by historic turnout among the minority populations who would have been most impacted by Moore's win, particularly women of color. Ninety-eight percent of black women who turned out to the polls on Tuesday cast their ballot for Jones.

Carson Jones, second from left, openly gay son of Senator Doug Jones, eyeballing Vice President Mike Pence, who is openly anti-LGBT, during his father's swearing in ceremony last January.

Carson cried on election night as Trump's win was announced, terrified of what it would mean for LGBTQ people like him.

"These are groups that have been really disenfranchised by the system and by politics in the state," Carson says, citing the state's history of voter suppression. "They were able to galvanize voters and get people energized. We can't thank them enough."

Carson adds that people of color "recognized early on" in the race that Moore would not be an ally to their communities. During a campaign stop in September, the conservative was asked by a black voter in Alabama when he feels America was at its greatest. The 70-year-old cited the antebellum South, prior to the Civil War.

Moore also told a conservative talk radio program in 2011 that he would abolish all of the amendments following the Bill of Rights, claiming that it would "eliminate many problems" in the U.S. government. Such a move, however, would nullify the 13th and 14th Amendments to the Constitution, making slavery legal. It would also repeal Women's Suffrage, enumerated in the 19th Amendment.

His mother, he claims, would get upset watching advertisements for Moore's campaign, which claimed that he was a candidate for "real Alabama voters." "Who are real Alabama voters?" Louise Jones wanted to know.

"Mom, he's talking about white people," Carson told her at the time. "He's talking about white, straight, Christian conservative people."

The far-right conservative's extremist politics are well-known in Alabama, Carson says. Moore was removed from the Alabama Supreme Court twice, most recently for attempting to block same-sex marriages in the state. As a circuit court judge, he attempted to prevent a lesbian mother from visitation rights to her kids, claiming her "minor children will be detrimentally affected by [her] present lifestyle."

The Republican also believes that homosexuality should be illegal, wasn't sure if LGBTQ people should face the death penalty, compared same-sex marriage to slavery, and blamed the gay community for the Sept. 11 attacks.

Carson believes it was important for the state to send a clear message repudiating homophobia and bigotry on Dec. 12 by voting against hate.

Although he lives 1,400 miles away in Colorado, Carson believes his home state is changing—and that it can continue to evolve.

On the evening before the election, peanut farmer Nathan Mathis protested a Roy Moore rally on behalf of his lesbian daughter, Patti, who took her own life in 1995. Mathis claimed in a video that later went viral he used to be anti-gay himself, saying he encouraged his daughter to undergo conversion therapy to "fix" her same-sex desires. That practice, which has been condemned by every leading medical association, has been likened to torture.

Now Mathis believes people like Moore are the problem.

"Judge Roy Moore called my daughter Patti Sue Mathis a pervert because she was gay," read a sign Mathis brought with him Monday night. "A 32-year-old Roy Moore dated teenage girls ages 14 to 17. So that makes him a pervert of the worst kind."

Even in the four years since he graduated high school, Carson believes that things have improved for LGBTQ people back home. Although he only knew one out student in Mountain Brook, many more have come out since. The high school now has a gay-straight alliance.

The city of Birmingham even opened its first leather bar last year.

Carson has witnessed this progress in his own life. Last summer, he was seeing someone in Denver, and one day while walking down the street, they locked hands. Growing up in a conservative area, being able to express affection in public was not a freedom to which Carson was accustomed. He pulled away for a second before his date looked at him and said, "You're fine. This is fine now."

"It's little moments like that which tell me that things are getting better," Carson says. "That's what I have to believe. And after the results on Tuesday, I don't just believe it—I know it."

Nico Lang is a staff writer for INTO, covering news, politics, and global LGBTQ issues.

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SPRING 2018 EVENT SEMINARS

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MAR. 7 WEDNESDAY

Breakthrough Heart Treatments

Heritage Hills Golf Resort
2700 Mount Rose Ave.
York

Presenters:

Mubashir Mumtaz, MD, FACS, FACC, surgical director of the structural heart program

Hemal Gada, MD, MBA, medical director of the structural heart program

Roberto Hodara, MD, co-director, cardiac invasive imaging

Atizaz Mansoor, MD, co-director, cardiac invasive imaging

6:30 p.m.

MAR. 20 TUESDAY

Colorectal Cancer: What are the Symptoms and Treatment Options?

Linglestown Giant
2300 Linglestown Rd.

Presenters:

Kaihong Mi, MD, PhD, hematology/oncology

David Weksberg, MD, PhD, co-director radiation oncology

Andrew Richards, MD, surgeon, Colon and Rectal Surgery

7 p.m.

MAR. 22 THURSDAY

Peripheral Artery Disease: What Can Your Legs Tell You About Your Heart?

UPMC Carlisle, Education Center
361 Alexander Spring Rd.

Presenters:

Anay Pradhan, MD, interventional cardiologist

David Loran, MD, vascular surgeon

7 p.m.

APR. 10 TUESDAY

What Does a Diagnosis of Head and Neck Cancer Mean?

Camp Hill Giant
3301 Trindle Rd.

Presenters:

Rodney Jamil, MD, medical director, UPMC Pinnacle Hematology/Oncology

Joella Wilson-Dagar, MD, co-director, UPMC Pinnacle Radiation Oncology

James Malone, MD, head & neck surgeon, Associated Otolaryngologists of PA

7 p.m.

APR. 24 TUESDAY

Breakthrough Heart Treatments

York Street Medical Center
400 York St., Hanover

Presenters:

Mubashir Mumtaz, MD, FACS, FACC, surgical director of the structural heart program

Hemal Gada, MD, MBA, medical director of the structural heart program

Roberto Hodara, MD, co-director, cardiac invasive imaging

Atizaz Mansoor, MD, co-director, cardiac invasive imaging

6:30 p.m.

APR. 25 WEDNESDAY

NeurogenX: A New Way to Treat Neuropathy Caused by Diabetes and Chemotherapy

Camp Hill Giant
3301 Trindle Rd.

Presenter:

Seth Steber, DMP, podiatrist, UPMC Pinnacle

7 p.m.

MAY 1 TUESDAY

Osteoporosis: What is it and How do You Manage it?

Camp Hill Giant
3301 Trindle Rd.

Presenter:

Marianna Antonopoulou, MD, endocrinologist, UPMC Pinnacle Endocrinology Associates

7 p.m.

MAY 8 TUESDAY

Breakthrough Heart Treatments

Lebanon Country Club
3375 Oak St.

Presenters:

Mubashir Mumtaz, MD, FACS, FACC, surgical director of the structural heart program

Hemal Gada, MD, MBA, medical director of the structural heart program

Roberto Hodara, MD, co-director, cardiac invasive imaging

Atizaz Mansoor, MD, co-director, cardiac invasive imaging

6:30 p.m.

MAY 15 TUESDAY

Peripheral Artery Disease: What Can Your Legs Tell You About Your Heart?

Camp Hill Giant
3301 Trindle Rd.

Presenters:

Daniel Calderon, MD, vascular surgeon

C. Randy Hubbard, MD, interventional cardiologist

7 p.m.